WORLD / A22

World Bank president
Wolfowitz begs to keep job, promises to change

WORLD / A21

Jerry Falwell who turned
Christian conservatives into political force dies; 73

NEWS / A2

Mark Jimenez
abducted wife, says her lawyer

ENTERTAINMENT / E1

Dollywood: Fan wants
to know if Yilmaz is Ruffa's 2nd husband

By conceding early, Garci up to no good–Ping, Nene

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG OPPOSITION SENATORS believe there is more than enough to the eye to try and freeze Commission on Elections chairman Virgilio "Boni" Garcia from a decision to

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, May 11, 2007 44 7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 138 P18 www.inquirer.net

'No, this is not my son'; Jonas Burgos still missing

By Fe Zamora

AMIDST BITTER TEARS, EDITHA BURGOS took a good look at the fingernails, the hairline and the bloodied face of the picture of a man found dead on a road in April 28, asking what her son, Jonas, was abducted by still unidentified men from a mall in Quezon City.

She turned to Sr. Irma Mendoza, the municipal

3 Pinays first SEA women to conquer Mt. Everest

By Alcuin Papa

FILIPINO-STYLE WOMAN POWER HAS helped three female members of a Philippines team reach the top of the world.

Enduring harsh problems, frigid weather, thin air, a near crippling accident and the abandonment of their original expedition route, Noelle Hernandez, Karina Bautista and Junn Bolo-mina have achieved the ultimate triumph of a mountaineer—the summit of Mt. Everest.

In a satellite phone call to the Inquirer, expedition leader Art Valdez confirmed that all three women reached the summit of the world's highest mountain from the North Side yesterday morning.

From all indications, they are the first

THEY'RE TOPS: Pinays (from left) Noelle Hernandez, Carina Bautista and Junn Bolo-mina of the Coast Guard step atop the first women to scale the mountain

TU 12-0 in Maguindanao

Trillanes hangs on to Magic 12

By Cathy Yamsuan and Nikko Dizon

IT WAS 9-2-1 IN FAVOR OF THE Genuine Opposition (GO) as of 9:11 last night in the quick count by the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections.

GO increased its lead over the administration's Team Unity (TU) in the official count of the election shortly after.

It was 8-3-1 for GO, according to partial results of the canvassing presided over by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) en banc sitting as the National Board of Canvassers. One ballo..

After slipping out of the Magic 12 in early tabulation yesterday, Sen. Antonio Trillanes moved up to 11th place based on Namfrel's tally as of 9:11 last night.

TRILLANES SAID

Cayetano woes pile up but no relief from SC

By Lala B. Saavedra and Doris Z. Pilapil

THE RESPITE STILL NO RELIEF EVEN from the Supreme Court for Alan Peter Cayetano, who is seeking the permanent disqualification of his namesake in the senatorial race.

Compounding his woes is the recommendation issued by Education Undersecretary for Legal Affairs Franklin Bautista to disqualify the school teacher not to count votes for the Genuine Opposition senatorial candidate in his favor.

The memo was issued on May

CAYETANO SA

Singson is topnotcher; Pichay is No. 2

Hazel B. Macalam and Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—DEfying dominant voting patterns in many parts of the country, administration loyalists are delivering the vaunted 12-0 sweep in Maguindanao for Team Unity (TU) candidates—with Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson in the topnotcher, based on early returns.

Administration strategists say such a win shows the power of the political machine espoused through bloc voting.

In Socio-Pacific, it is the power of the datu at play—a system of consultations where people are encouraged to touch a consensus on matters of public concern, elections among them.

The GO vote for the TU ticket, based on initial returns from Maguindanao's 27 town (total voting population: 506,000), followed warnings from anti-watchdog groups about an alleged administration plot to rig the votes in the country's southern region.

The roaming machinery of the administration is seen as weak in Mindanao," Pimentel said yesterday.

Maguindanao was one of the provinces mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tape scandal involving administration officials, including Pimentel, Senate President Manuel M. Villar Jr. and Speaker Jose de Venecia III.

TU GOES

CYRA, 5, the youngest of 9 children of policewoman Leticia Ramos and her siblings cry their hearts out at her wake in the family home in Tayuman, Balanga, Bataan. Their mother was burned to death when gunmen in hoods torched the armored van she worked as poll watcher

THE GOOD FIGHTS

Priest's rival claims victory

By the Inquirer Bureaus

FIRST FORMER COMMODORE ROMEO Ed Pandilla yesterday called on his supporters to mount prayer vigils over the election canvassing woman against a "counting group scheme to change the outcome of the election in Pampanga."

"Democracy is in peril in Pampanga," he told reporters.

He appeal was prompted by Board Member Lilia Pineda's early claim to victory, which also triggered criticisms from a rival candidate, reelectionist Gov. Mark Lapid.

"The right authority to do that is the provincial board of canvassers. We have to follow proper procedures," Pandilla said.

He said delays, power interruptions, vote-buying, ballot-switching, the stoppage of canvassing in several towns, intentional misreading of results and alleged human rights violations during and...

Despite odds, Pandilla garnered 1,07,841 votes; Pineda, 1,26,809; and Lapid, 113,519.

PRIESTS AS

Foreign observers: We felt safer in Afghanistan

By Cynthia D. Balana

DESPITE THE "FIESTA" ATMOSPHERE during the May 14 elections, foreign observers who monitored the voting in Mindanao said yesterday they sensed relatively fewer possible violence and felt safer in Afghanistan.

They also reported incidents of intimidation, likewise were buying, candidates' poll watchers directing names to voters as they filled out their ballots and lack of voter respect for election instructions in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

In a statement, the team of 21 foreign observers from the Asian Network for Free Elections (Anfrel) said that while the government claimed the balloting was generally peaceful, it was not so in the ARMM.

It said the ARMM polling was "stampeded by narcotics" and that the culture of impunity for election and political crimes was "fuel cells for an alternative government that could provide justice for the people.

"The situation is not so comfortable especially if you have the military everywhere and also weapons everywhere," said Somsri Ratanavaraha, Anfrel observer from Thailand.

Ibrahim, who said the new uniforms have between rival candidates and voters bomb blasts, had also observed poll ir

FOREIGN OB

ELEKSYON 2007
COMELEC TALLY

1	PANGILINAN, Francis	GO	3000
2	LEGARDA, Loren	GO	2941
3	AQUINO, Benigno	GO	2880
4	RECTO, Ralph	TU	2844
5	VILLAR, Manuel	GO	2808
6	OCAMPO, Francis	GO	2805
7	APOSTOL, Adel	TU	2800
8	LACSON, Panfilo	GO	2791
9	GAYTANO, Alan	GO	2783
10	ARROYO, Gloria	TU	2700
11	PIMENTEL, Aquilino	GO	2701
12	ROCO, Sonia	GO	1700
13	OSMEÑA, Michael	TU	1680
14	ZUBIRI, Miguel	TU	1714
15	SOTTO, Vicente	TU	1720
16	HONASAN, Gregorio	GO	1644
17	OCAMPO, Alex	GO	1404
18	MAGSAYSAY, Vicente	GO	1288
19	TRILLANES, Antonio	GO	1288
20	VOLTAIRE, Noli	GO	1000

NAMFREL TALLY

1	PANGILINAN, Francis	GO	1,108,956
2	LEGARDA, Loren	GO	1,108,600
3	LACSON, Panfilo	GO	1,105,840
4	VILLAR, Manuel	GO	1,103,078
5	PANGILINAN, Francis	ind	1,102,978
6	AQUINO, Benigno	GO	1,098,800
7	ARROYO, Gloria	TU	1,110,840
8	ARROYO, Jose	TU	1,096,750
9	GAYTANO, Alan	GO	1,040,905
10	HONASAN, Gregorio	ind	1,040,020
11	TRILLANES, Antonio	GO	1,011,000
12	PIMENTEL, Aquilino	GO	1,008,100
13	ZUBIRI, Miguel	TU	958,000
14	RECTO, Ralph	TU	945,210
15	ROMUALDEZ, Benigno	TU	900,010
16	OSMEÑA, Michael	TU	880,400
17	ROCO, Sonia	GO	796,700
18	MADRIGAL, Cesar	TU	772,210
19	OCAMPO, Alex	GO	680,200
20	SOTTO, Vicente	TU	660,000

SEA HOUR/DEST
27 29 | 4 2 0 9
Hourly SUBSTRED Jackpot
8 8 | 1 1 1 0
MEGALOTTO 6/45
15 22 32 34 42 43
P68,402,919.68

Second
FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Mark Jimenez wife abducted

Justice Ong goes to SC

By Michael Lim Ubac and Yvo Contreras

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS lifted up a Supreme Court vacancy with a judge who is closely associated with jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday told reporters the appointment papers of Sandiganbayan Justice Gregory Ong were transmitted earlier that day to Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

Ong takes up the lone vacancy in the 15-member High Bench brought about by the retirement of Associate Justice Romeo Callejo on April 26.

Ermita said the President relied on the wisdom of the Judicial and Bar Council in her choice of Ong. The JBC, which oversees search committees for vacancies in the judiciary, provided Malacañang with a short-list. The body is chaired by the Chief Justice.

Ong was one of three Sandiganbayan justices—the others are Noel Tijam and Godofredo Legaspi—who asked to be dropped from the list of magistrates being considered for the appointment that would free the plunder case against Estrada.

In a manifestation before the Supreme Court, Ong said he should not sit in what would become known as the Special Division because of his "close association" with the disgraced leader.

Estrada appointed Ong to the antigraft court in October 1998. He served as a justice member of the 1st Division until January 2002 when he became its acting chair.

In October 2002 he became chair of the Sandiganbayan's 4th Division.

Ong, who is turning 54 on May 25, teaches laws at the San Beda College, where he also took his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1979. He obtained a master's degree at the Manuel L. Quezon University in 1998.

Promotion

Ong began his government career in 1980 as an assistant city prosecutor in Manila, a position he held until December 1985.

Before his promotion to the Sandiganbayan, Ong presided over the Pasig Regional Trial Court, Branch 262, from January 2004 to October 1998. His sala was created amid a special criminal court assigned to hear business offenses.

In a statement yesterday Ong thanked the President "for reposing her confidence in me."

"I would like to assure her and the entire nation that I will perform my duties as a high court magistrate with utmost dedication and with only my conscience and the good of the nation as my guide," he said.

By Kristine L. Alave

CAROL JIMENEZ, THE wife of former Manila congressman Mark Jimenez, was abducted by eight men yesterday morning in Makati City and is reportedly being held in a drug rehabilitation center owned by her husband's relative, her lawyer Lorna Patajo-Kapunan said yesterday.

Carol was with her sister Rose Hunkinson when she was forcibly taken by unidentified men and pushed in side a vehicle at the basement of Fairentry condominium at about 9:30 a.m.

In a press briefing yesterday, Patajo-Kapunan said she was supposed to meet Carol in the afternoon for their first court hearing at the Taguig Regional Trial Court, where she filed last month charges of domestic abuse and got a temporary restriction order against her husband of 10 years.

Carol had told the court that her husband, who came to prominence as a "financial adviser" of deposed President Joseph Estrada, never gave her a cent back in the United States to serve a sentence for illegal campaign contributions, enhanced her to various physical, verbal, emotional and psychological abuse over the last three decades.

In her sworn statement, she said Jimenez broke her nose when he threw a glass ashtray at her face and even performed an "exorcism" on her last year. He also threatened to kill her and their 11-year-old son.

Drug rehab center

Patajo-Kapunan expressed fears for the safety of her client-friend.

She said they received reports that Carol was taken to Silver Cloud Rehabilitation Center in Pandacan City. One of the facility's owners is Diana Jimenez, Mark's sister, she said.

"They will probably inject her with drugs and hold her against her will...There's no doubt Ali is behind this," Patajo-Kapunan charged.

The lawyer also called Jimenez last the panel who questioned the phone calls—no one was available for interview as all officials were all on vacation. The panel refused to confirm if Carol was taken to the facility citing the facility's "confidentiality" provisions.

Patajo-Kapunan appealed to Ali we want officials to release Carol.

"Please let her go. Carol is not a drug addict," Patajo-Kapunan said. She said the rehabilitation that Carol takes are for anxiety and stress.

Habeas corpus petition

If Carol failed to appear in the next 24 hours, Patajo-Kapunan said she would ask the court to summon Jimenez and order him to release his wife or she would file a habeas corpus petition before the Supreme Court.

Mark Jimenez, however, yesterday denied having "kidnapped" his wife.

Jimenez called up the Inquirer before a scheduled press conference in his house where he said he would present a certification from an accredited doctor of the Dangerous Drugs Board showing that his wife was indeed drug dependent, as well as certifications from at least eight psychiatrists and psychologists who examined on his wife to further prove his point.

MARK JIMENEZ

CAROL JIMENEZ

Asked why he was bringing Ali and, Jimenez said "because I want to save her and shield her from high-ranking government officials and business persons who are using her to malign me and the people who support me."

He said that he had been undergoing rehabilitation for several years before the fall the house and went to his director who advised her to see him.

Restraining order

In a three-page decision issued on April 13, Taguig family court Executive Judge Imelda Manalastas prohibited the ex-congressman from coming within 200 meters of his wife, their son, and her immediate relatives.

Manalastas also banned Jimenez from "harassing, annoying, telephoning, contacting, or communicating," with Carolina and her family.

Jimenez should also provide financial support to Carol and undergo psychiatral counseling for anger control, management of alcohol and substance abuse, and other interventions "to stop violence," the judge ordered.

Patajo-Kapunan said Jimenez had violated the order. He refused to give support to Carol, sources their house in Greenhills, Condominium, and hurt her again when she tried to retrieve some of her things in their house.

Patajo-Kapunan said she had filed a motion with the court to cite Jimenez for contempt. With Cynthia D. Balloon

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT
4-DAY Public Auction
MAY 30, 31-JUNE 1 & 2, 2007
MAY 26-27-28 & 29
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT THAT WILL DO THE JOB FOR YOU!
www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com

United Auctioneers, Inc.
INSPECTION DATES: MAY 19, 20 & 21, 2007
INSPECTION & REGISTRATION START ON SATURDAY!!!
BEST PRICE QUALITY DEAL!
NO MINIMUM PRICE
MAY 22, 23 & 24, 2007
SALE STARTS @ 8:30 A.M. SHARP
The PREMIER SOURCE of EQUIPMENT for your BUSINESS NEEDS!

Elections send Inquirer.net traffic soaring

By JP Rubio
INQUIRER.net

ELECTION FEVER HAS SENT TRAFFIC ON Inquirer.net, the news website of the Inquirer group of publications, soaring.

Traffic during Election Day itself, May 14, was relatively low, at a little over a million page views.

But traffic on May 15, the day after the elections, saw traffic doubling to 2.1 million page views, based on the site's traffic monitoring system.

This level of traffic is the highest since July 8, 2005, the day several members of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet quit their posts and called on her to resign in the wake of the "Hello Garci" electoral fraud scandal (http://archive.inquirer.net/view.php?db=1&story_id=42515).

On that day in 2005, 1.8 million page views were registered.

A pageview is a request for a web page from the site made by a user's web browser.

Most of the traffic was registered on Inquirer.net's running account (http://eleksyon2007.inquirer.net/running/), a account by intense "liveblogging" of election-related developments.

The site's tally page (http://eleksyon2007.inquirer.net/tally/results) received considerable traffic as Inquirer.net personnel kept readers abreast of tallies from both the media tally of the ABS-CBN/Inquirer unit, the census of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) and the official tally of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Also receiving attention was the site's Google-powered Election Map (http://www.inquirer.net/specialreport/eleksyon2007/map.php), which compared registered voters in 2007 to that in 2004 by province and town.

Readers joined in the election coverage through posts and comments on the Eleksyon 2007 blog (http://news.inquirer.net/blog/archive/category/67).

Building on the special Eleksyon 2007 site's offerings are a 4,000-article Election News section (http://eleksyon2007.inquirer.net/archive/) dating back to November 2006 as well as photo (http://eleksyon2007.inquirer.net/photos.php) and video (http://eleksyon2007.inquirer.net/video.php) sections.

Clean up, bets told

WITH THE ELECTORAL FRENZY OVER, DENR Assistant Secretary Nogie Reyes yesterday appealed to candidates to help environment personnel retrieve their posters of smile and text lyrics that banners from trees across the country.

Reyes warned that unless cleared up soon, the campaign materials that still clutter thoroughfares, streets and plazas could clog sewers, fed up the air, and contaminate water sources.

Posters and leaflets could end up in rivers, esteros and canalejas, and cause flash floods when the rains season sets in, while turpentine could cause air pollution if these were merely burned, he said.

Seat-all-you-can!

MANILA TO BANGKOK, HONG KONG, JAKARTA, SAIGON, SINGAPORE, TAIPEI, OR XIAMEN

FOR AS LOW AS US$ 49 ++

ONE-WAY FARE*
Sale period: May 15 – 31, 2007

PLUS: Convenient arrival time at destination so you don't have to spend more on hotel accommodations
PLUS: Modern, French-designed, hassle-free terminal
PLUS: Spacious aircraft interiors and seating comfort
PLUS: Complimentary inflight cuisine prepared by our chef
PLUS: Complimentary sports, wine, beverages including water and coffee
PLUS: Complimentary inflight music, movies, film features, newspapers and magazine
PLUS: Modern fleet of B747, A340, A330, A320, and A319 aircraft
PLUS: Online booking is also available

* Valid only for roundtrip ticket purchase at US$99 Exclusive of taxes, fees, and surcharges Travel validity is from June 13 – Oct. 15, 2007 with over 30,000 seats available until supply lasts Other travel conditions apply

Philippine Airlines
It's about experience

For more details, call PAL Reservations at (02) 855-8888 or your travel agent. Or book and buy at www.philippineairlines.com

Get A Mommy Makeover!

Motherhood didn't stop Diane and Lyn Frew still looking young and sexy. And it shouldn't stop you! Pregnancy adds on the pounds, but at Marie France it's not impossible to lose them. You can get back those svelte legs, slender arms, even that sexy waistline! In just a few weeks, you'll start noticing the difference and soon you'll get back the figure you once had. (Or even better!)

It's time to give motherhood a new shape. Love your body. Call Marie France now and sign up for our slimming programs.

Get 4 FREE PHYSIQUE INCH-LOSS TREATMENTS upon enrollment from May 14-19, 2007

marie france

Call 894-BOOM (2639)

Comelec tells TV networks to stop quick count

By Jocelyn R. Uy
and Jerome Aning

COMELEC CHAIR BENJAMIN Abalos Jr. yesterday told two top television networks to stop airing their own election quick counts using consolidated results from unspecified sources.

He warned networks GMA 7 and ABS-CBN 2 that they would be cited for contempt and may lose franchises if they did not follow his order.

"Both (TV) stations are not accredited to do a quick count. It's only Namfrel (National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections)," Abalos said yesterday.

Abalos said that the Commission on Elections' education and information department has already sent a letter to the two media networks ordering them to stop airing unofficial and consolidated election results, which, he noted, was tantamount to violating election rules.

Sanctions would be imposed if these media organizations should they disregard the Comelec's notice. But Abalos, however, did not elaborate on these penalties.

"Let's not talk of sanctions yet. Let us see if there will be violations," he said.

Based on prior arrangements between the two TV networks, the Comelec allowed them to report quick counts and exit polls but they were not granted permission to consolidate results without citing sources, he said.

He clarified that ABS-CBN's current tryout, which is not showing a quick count, was run by "a test" but not a valid source.

He added: "They (media outfits) are not supposed to report an unofficial tally especially if they do not show their source. In the same way, reporting false and alarming news is a ground for us to call them and have them cited for contempt."

Abraham Bulang, head of the Comelec law department, defended the poll body's decision to regulate media outlets.

He said Comelec commissioners would come out with a resolution setting new and clearer guidelines for media outlets.

"If it's only a simple tally with no other information where the votes counted came from, then there's a possibility that it may be construed as trending," Bulang said via an interview. *With a report from Khristine Hipolito*

NUMBERS GAME

GMA tightens grip on House

By Jules Lobog Jiao-Ilana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo yesterday said her allies have increased their majority in the House of Representatives and in local election posts and predicted political stability after the mid-term elections on Monday.

"I believe we will have an even bigger majority in the House and an almost complete sweep of the local elected positions," Mrs. Arroyo said in an interview sometime with the *Wall Street Journal Asia* newspaper.

Economic reforms

Misleadingly released portions of the President's interview yesterday.

Mrs. Arroyo revealed most recently the race for the Senate, saying the official count was just beginning.

"The elections went good, peaceful, less violent. There's going to be political stability," Mrs. Arroyo said.

"We can continue on our path of economic reforms towards our pro-growth, pro-poor and pro-modernization agenda," she said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the administration was not yet ready to concede the Senate to the opposition.

Early results of the count show six opposition, two independents and only four administration candidates in the top 12 for the Senate.

The ruling coalition claimed at least 22 governors and 67 representatives as having won in Monday's elections.

A special law provided by the Lakas-CMD also showed that Malacañang allies were leading in majority of the gubernatorial and congressional races in Luzon.

Leading the pack in the congressional races were the President's sons, Davo and Mikey Arroyo in Camarines Sur and Pampanga, respectively, and Speaker Jose de Venecia in Pangasinan.

The administration winners in the congressional race include the daughter of Ermita, Benita Ermita-Linda, and the daughter of Angara, Lotlot Angara-Lacson, a brother of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, to Tarlac, and Roberto Puno, a brother of Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, in Antipolo City.

Ermita said the outcome of the congressional race ruled out the necessity of any feuds led to impeach the President in the incoming 14th Congress.

That's life

"Impeachment is a numbers game. The fact (is) they are really very few. It follows that it's a useless exercise for the opposition to try. These are the practicalities of life, especially in politics," Ermita said in his weekly press briefing.

The President's statements did not mean that she was more interested in securing administration dominance in the House than getting a comfortable majority in the Senate, he said.

"I think the senators are all pragmatic and responsible. They are not there for the sake of opposing whatever the measures the administration might have," Ermita said.

But he said the President would certainly attend a bond of accountability to the opposition.

"The President is the President of the republic and therefore has programs always hinges on how she is able to get the cooperation of everybody in the legislature, executive and judicial branch," Ermita said. Therefore (the President), I'm sure, will exert all efforts to be able to get the cooperation of everyone especially in both houses of Congress," Ermita said.

If the opposition gains the majority in the Senate, Ermita said, "then definitely the President will have to reach out to them and appeal to their sense of patriotism and patriotism to cooperate with the executive branch in some aspects legislations that will improve the conditions of our people."

He did not see any difficulty in this as the President did not operate with authority.

Still the president

"Now that the elections are over, when the smoke of the battle has been done, President Arroyo is still the president of the republic and she has the constitutional prerogative that she will really go all out for one side but the nationalism for one as the President," Ermita said.

CENTER FOR ASIAN CULINARY STUDIES
CAFE YSABEL RESTAURANT
Asian Culinary Studies
TOP CULINARY SCHOOL – PHILIPPINE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2006
MAY – JUNE SCHEDULE
RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS
COOKING CLASSES
BAKING CLASSES
WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD CALL AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS FOR RESERVATIONS.
DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

Gov't owns UCPB shares, court rules

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SANDIGANBAYAN 1ST DIVISION with finality that the government owns the shares held by sequestered Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. in the United Coconut Planters Bank, saying the sequestered shares were illegally acquired using resources they hoard.

In a ruling last May 11, the anti-graft court's First Division also dismissed a motion by Cojuangco and the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation Inc. (Cocofed) for a "ball, bloody trial" over the ownership of UCPB, dashing their hopes of recovering their shares in the bank.

The Sandiganbayan said in July 15, 2003 ruling, forfeiting Cojuangco's shares in UCPB and awarding them to the government, was final.

'Public in character'

"The court finds that indeed there are no more triable issues that have to be addressed that would necessitate the presentation of evidence by the accused-respondents Cojuangco and Atlehortua," read the court's decision penned by Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta.

The decision comes six years after the Supreme Court declared that the sura levy funds were "public in character." The levy was imposed on coconut farmers as a forced tax from 1971, some of the material late area declared illegal in 1982.

In 2003, the Sandiganbayan ruled that Cojuangco had illegally acquired 10,370 ating coconut funds.

The ruling also affirmed its earlier pronouncement that Cojuangco, Presidential Decree No. 755 issued by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos authorizing the Philippine Coconut Authority to buy a bank using coco levy funds for the benefit of the coconut farmers was illegal.

'Futile effort'

The PCA was created by Presidential Decree 232 on June 30, 1973 to develop the coconut industry by generating funds from the coco levy. Former Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, its board members were Cojuangco and the late Rizalde Cleto Lobregat.

Through PD 755, the Philippine Coconut Federation and Cojuangco, the PCA was authorized to use the coconut levy funds to organize Grandexport Inc. to acquire 72.2 percent of UCPB, which was then known as the First United Bank, in 1975.

In 1986, the Presidential Commission on Good Government sequestered the shares.

In its latest ruling, the court noted that a trial on added by Cojuangco and Cocofed would be "a futile effort" since the Gandiel's diplomat ruled heavily on 291 751, which has already been declared as "conclusively adjudged."

"It appears that all pertinent issues have already been addressed by the Court and trial would be dispersed with. There is no more point in proceeding with trial ..." the ruling said.

However, the court gave Cojuangco the green light to appeal before the Supreme Court its ruling in 2004 affirming government ownership over the 27 percent blue of San Miguel Corp. shares, which is being held and administered by the PCGG.

The antigraft court's First Division ducted it as a "separate appealable" judgment.

The court had declared in 2006 that the 27 percent shares of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) in SMC—which is part of the 47 percent sequestered SMC shares...was government owned and must be used for the benefit of coconut farmers.

THE DAILY GOSPEL
Thursday, May 17, 2007
6th Week of Easter
1st Reading: Acts 18:1-8
Gospel: John 16:16-20

Jesus said to his disciples, "A little while and you will see me no more; and then, a little while, and you will see me."

Some of the disciples wondered, "What does he mean by 'A little while and you will not see me, and then a little while and you will see me?' and why did he say, 'I go to the Father?'" and they said to one another, "What does he mean by 'a little while?' We don't understand."

Jesus knew that they wanted to question him, so he said to them, "You are wondering between yourselves what I meant when I said you will not see me, and then a little while later you will see me.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn joy."

Commentary:

Real pain in Gerard and many Priscilla and Aquila, who are wounded, and they live together and work together. Timothy and Titus come, and Paul preaches intently to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah (this is the apostle to the Gentiles) and the anger is aimed at them. He successfully establishes in a house next the synagogue and then Titus Justus and his family are baptized, and many Corinthians believe. Again we see the very harmonious of the community as it flourishes, dealing with outside diversions, the Roman government, the Jewish community and multi-faceted disillusionment, and the Christian community.

Jesus keeps trying to tell all of us that he and I have for a short time and then return. We will grieve and mourn but it will be turned into joy. Jesus will return and the gift of the Spirit and will return one day when the world is no longer hard to God and he has returned to earth is...or make it holy. Jesus calls us to remain strong. But there will be joy.

Visionary Publications Inc., 8 Mercury Ave. cor. EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City, Tel.: 925-2806, Fax: 925-2806 local 107, e-mail: info@vpi.ph, Website: http://www.thedailygospel.org (Christian Publications) & http://www.thedailydigest.org (Christian Ministries) in the Philippines

Corrections

IN THE MAY 6 ISSUE, a front page story—"Japan mugging, retaining arms ban in AP"—misidentified the Official Development Assistance (ODA) as an agency or organization. ODA refers to grants or loans extended by developed countries to developing countries.

* * *

IN RECENT ISSUES, several stories misstated the name of an election watchdog with the acronym Namfrel. The acronym stands for National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections—not National Movement for Free Elections.

* * *

IN THE MAY 16 ISSUE, the editorial on Page A14—"Isolated cases?"—misstated the first name of President Macapagal-Arroyo's election lawyer. The lawyer's name is Romulo—not Rodmo—Macalintal.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Inq7.net, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 2nd Floor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 757 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, Philippines; *or by e-mail to* customercare@inquirer.com.ph *or fax them at 897-47-85/94. Also, Readers Advocate Ellen Tordesillas may be reached at 897-8820 local 342.*

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Isagani Yambot, Inquirer Group of Newspapers ombudsman, at 897-8820 local 342, e-mail at ombudsman@inquirer.com.ph or fax him at 897-47-85/94. Also, Readers Advocate Ellen Tordesillas may be reached at 897-8820 local 342.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL 3-DAY SALE

Experience events that rock before school rolls in:

Robinsons Galleria
MAY 18
Sichuan Cultural Arts Festival Launch
MAY 19 to 20
Sichuan Cultural Arts Festival

Robinsons Place Pioneer
MAY 18
Ivo Mello
MAY 19
Lexus' Go Event
MAY 20
Ronex Lascuna & Joe Manuel Mall Show

Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa
MAY 18
Ronex Lascuna & Joe Manuel Mall Show
MAY 19
Andrea Hold Mall Show
MAY 20
Sandwich Mall Show

Robinsons Place Cainta
MAY 19
Summer Sports Training featuring Sweet Aerobics

Robinsons Place Novaliches
MAY 18
Cornfan
MAY 19
Silvertrack Mall Show
MAY 20
Marky Cielo Mall Show

Robinsons Place Dasmariñas
MAY 18
Jinggel Mendez Mall show
MAY 19
Rhian Ramos Mall Show
MAY 20
Itchyworms

Robinsons Place Manila
MAY 18
Brownman Revival
Album Promo Tour
MAY 19
National Heritage Foundation Opening Ceremony
MAY 20
National Heritage Foundation Exhibit

Robinsons Place Iloilo
MAY 18
Mark Herras Mall Show
MAY 19
Orange and Lemons Mall Show
MAY 20
Nadine Samonte Mall Show

Robinsons Place Angeles
MAY 18
Lizzy Pecson & Dex Quindoza
Silverstruck Band 4
Avengerd Mall Show
MAY 20
Katrina Halili Mall Show

Robinsons Metro East
MAY 18
Jackie Rice Mall Show
MAY 19
Callalily Album Promo Tour
MAY 20
Imago Mall Show

Robinsons Starmills Pampanga
MAY 18
Ajax Aleksova Mall Show

MAY 19
Sandwich
MAY 20
Noel Cabangon
Album Promo Tour

Robinsons Place Lipa
MAY 18
Rich Asuncion
MAY 19
Noel Cabangon
Album Promo Tour
MAY 20
Ajax Aleksova

Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños
MAY 18
Prince Stefan Mall Show
MAY 20
Mike Tan Mall Show

Come Home to Robinsons Malls

MONSTER RADIO RX 93.1

*Extended hours for Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Metro East & Robinsons Place Pioneer from 10 am to 10 pm.

For DTI-NCR permit no. [illegible] issued [illegible]

MAY 18 | 19 | 20 MALLS: Robinsons Galleria • Robinsons Place Pioneer • Robinsons Place Manila • Robinsons Metro East • Robinsons Place Cainta • Robinsons Place Novaliches • Robinsons Starmills Pampanga • Robinsons Place Angeles • Robinsons Place Ilocos Norte • Robinsons Place Dasmariñas • Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños • Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa • Robinsons Place Lipa • Robinsons Place Bacoor • Robinsons Metro Alabang • Robinsons Place Iloilo • Robinsons Place Zapote de Oro

Foreign observers: We felt safer in Afghanistan

By Inquirer staff

ANGEL WITHOUT A MOTHER: Lexis is flanked by husband husband Pogoncay, 54 (center, 2nd row); Louis III, 3; Lexi, 5; Lex, 20; Lovely, 16; Philip, 14; Peter Jay, 13; Lalaine, 31; and Lyka, 9. Not in photo is eldest child Lovelyn, 21, who went to Manila. (INQUIRER PHOTO)

SHOULAND AWE: Election observers from Pakistan, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in the Namfrel headquarters at Greenhills where the canvassing of votes is ongoing. (INQUIRER)

2004 and 2005 in Afghanistan.

She said she felt safer in Afghanistan than in her hometown.

"Of course, we were also afraid of the underground Taliban. ...But at least we don't have shooting... the threat from two sides when you go anywhere and the fears that sometimes we protect," she added.

Hot in Mindanao

The observers from Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand spent eight days to visit 16 NBC provinces and visited more than 500 precincts.

Muslimin Sarman Lubis Ali, director of the National Institute for Electoral Integrity (NIEI) in Indonesia, said it was "a hot election" in Mindanao, particularly in Tawi-Tawi and Sulu.

"We are not covering judgment. But there is tension as a battlefield. Big relation to learn from each other and observe. We have universal criteria of election," he stressed, including whether the exercise was peaceful, free and fair.

Ali said the observers agreed that the automated election was conducive to elections in the united ARMM province.

No secrecy in voting

"I did not feel physically safe, what more the others?" he said.

"It is not in the election area but, but, we have less protection both place, many cases of vote manipulation. It's very hard to say there was no cheating say to election cheating," he said.

Ali said that being free means the voting must be done confidentially, which was not the case in the precincts the observers visited.

"We observed a lot of counting table governors where people were being accompanied to write the names and I myself observed flying voters in truck loads with 20-25 of them coming to precincts," he stressed.

Women participation

Ismail noted the deployment of military personnel outside the voting precincts to schools.

"It is a flexible rule of many position (things, such) as more women participation in all aspects of the electoral processes, the better mood in most polling precincts despite the long lines of voters and the up hours of civil society.

"Philippines is a democracy and I take it as celebration of democracy," the said.

Asma Shah Bin Iskandar of Malaysia said he talked to some people take even minute to cast their votes, something he had many impressions back in country.

"To me, it is very classy, just PDA. This incidence happened one due before the election. They're not afraid and they showed more we they got it," Iskandar said.

The observers blamed the "fast system" for the continuing political disorders in the Philippines and said this was not good for the Philippines and other Asian countries.

Use symbols for candidates

Rashid Shahrul of the Liaison People's Action for Free and Fair Elections compared the Philippines' anti-guided voting process with the more advanced card system used in Sri Lanka's elections.

"The people are not educated. The ballots are very big. Why don't you introduce a card system where people just have to choose symbols (for candidates) to make it more simple for voters? The long paper is discouraging voters," he said.

Proposals for reform

The teams prepared several electoral reforms:

► Election offenses must be addressed swiftly.

► The ban on campaign finance should be enforced. Overspending must be discouraged, and the sources of funding should be clear.

► Call down the cost of manpowering and enhance accountability and responsibility by lowering number elected by region rather than nationwide.

► The automatic provision of the Constitution should be supplemented to limit the number of politicians from the same family or political clan.

► The Commission on Elections must be more professional and those who misuse their power should be disqualified.

► The local election should be separated from the national to make the process simpler and more transparent.

► The ban on modernization should be implemented in succeeding elections. With reports from Cathy Rimando and AP

Cayetano woes: No relief from Supreme Court, DepEd memo

By Inquirer staff

12, less than 24 hours after the Commission on Elections on time declared Joselito Cayetano of the Bikolnong Bagong Lipunan a resistance candidate.

In the memo, Jango ordered regional directors and schools Division superintendents of the Department of Education to inform all public school teachers serving in the board of election inspectors (BEIs) to still consider Joselito Cayetano a valid candidate, on grounds that the Comelec en banc's May 11 decision was supposedly not yet final and executory.

But it's the status quo for Alan Cayetano, with the Supreme Court no basic merely directing the Commission on Elections to resolve the petition seeking to make permanent Joselito Cayetano's disqualification as a candidate.

According to Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez, Alan Cayetano's petition did not raise strong enough reasons to extend the issuance of a temporary restraining order on the Comelec's decision not to declare Joselito Cayetano's disqualification.

The high court can get a TRO from the court, DE must find out how to be really very serious issue. Apparently, there were no sufficient allegations to merit the issuance of a TRO," Marquez told reporters.

Other remedies

Marquez said that depending on future events, there was a chance that Cayetano's petition could be ruled to be rendered moot.

He said Alan Cayetano could still seek other remedies, like filing a motion for reconsideration.

He also said the justices had to get the comments of Joselito Cayetano and the Comelec so that they could get a complete picture of the issues, such as how many days Joselito Cayetano had to appeal to the Comelec's March 27 ruling disqualifying him.

Marquez said the Supreme Court recognized the urgency of Alan Cayetano's petition, which was why it called for a special session to hear motion yesterday to discuss the matter. The high court is currently en recess.

He said seven justices attended the en banc session.—Aaron Aning, Chief Justice Leonardo-De Castro, Associate Justices Antonio Carpio, Renato Corona, Adolf Azcuna, Ruben Reyes and Diosdado Peralta. The other justices are on leave.

Alan Cayetano also accused the Comelec of deliberately rendering the election's in not noncompliance memorandum from Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, dated May 11, 2007, stating that "Cayetano" votes would not be counted in any manner.

Despite the decision, quick counts have shown that Cayetano is among the top 12 vote-getters in

CAYETANO
The comelec ed case.

1st time

At the CO headquarters, Comelec showed reporters copies of the May 12 Inquirer stories.

"This is the first time that the DepEd issued a memo for a resistance candidate," he said, adding that he got hold of a copy only yesterday.

In the memo titled "Case of Joselito Cayetano"—a copy of which was signed by Education Secretary Jesli Lapuz—Jango claimed that the Comelec en banc's May 11 resolution disqualifying Joselito Cayetano had "not yet become final and executory" because he was not yet served a copy of the resolution.

To justify his claim, Jango attached a copy of a memo by the Comelec law department director Alioden Dilag, stating the poll body's records showed that Joselito Cayetano "was not yet served with a copy" of the entire resolution.

Interestingly, in connection with said memorandum of Atty. Dilag, it was hereby directed to inform all chairmen and members of the BEIs (I find Joselito P. Cayetano a candidate) on May 14, 2007, and maybe validly stated for," said Lungo.

"By reason of the foregoing, if only the issue Cayetano's votes are on the ballot, the vote shall be considered stray," he said.

Jango was appointed to the DepEd by Malacañang in April 2006. Once again he hails Lapuz, a third cousin. Today expresses, Jess was named education secretary.

Not DepEd initiative

Lapuz, however, said the Jango memo was "not an initiative" of the DepEd.

He said the DepEd "merely disseminated" the Comelec memo "and was giving it to (it's the Comelec)."

"We just totally and completely followed Comelec instructions," Lapuz told the Inquirer. He added that DepEd critics were "looking up the wrong tree."

Lapuz made similar statements also by a senior Department held earlier yesterday at the DepEd headquarters in Pasig City.

To the Inquirer, he said the memo only "red tiding pressed."

"We (two sets) not following Dilag's memo," he said.

But Alan Cayetano said the DepEd memo defending Joselito Cayetano's inclusion in the candidates' list was just the latest among the series of roadblocks aimed at derailing his candidacy.

He pointed out that the DepEd did not bother to issue a similar memo when the namesake candidate of his fellow BO nominee candidates, Benigno "Bejoy" Aquino III, was disqualified by a decision of the poll body endorsed by the Comelec en banc.

Impeachment case

Whatever happens, Alan Cayetano is considering filing an impeachment case against Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., and perhaps even the election commissioners.

"We are still studying the matter but what we know we are thinking of taking action against the Comelec," Mr. lawyer, Jesli de Lima, told the Inquirer.

De Lima said her client's camp had received information from Comelec insiders that the poll body intentionally dragged its feet in resolving the disqualification case against Cayetano.

"We'd like to find out who is behind the deliberate delay in the disposing of these two incidents...our motion to declare the decision resolution is final and executory and the (opposition) to the motion for reconsideration of Joselito Cayetano (The Comelec) could have disposed of both incidents at the same time, and much earlier than May 10 or 11," De Lima said, adding:

"All these indicated to us that the Comelec had the authority of the DepEd to issue a similar memo to the BEIs reiterating the instructions of the Comelec law department."

He described the Comelec memo as "disappointing" in apparently forgot a provision in the rules of appreciation of ballots that said that if there were two candidates with the same surname and a voter cast a vote for one along with his/her party-name, the vote should be credited to that candidate, and not the other because the name is one for the vote was "appeared."

Chronology

The Comelec's first division, composed of Commissioners Rene Sarmiento Rowena Guanzon and Resti Tagitis, ruled in a March 27 decision that Joselito Cayetano were nuisance candidates.

Joselito Cayetano filed a motion for reconsideration (MR).

On April 17, Alan Cayetano filed an opposition to Joselito's MR with a motion to declare the division ruling final and executory, claiming that the latter had failed his MR beyond the deadline set by the Comelec.

On May 10, the Comelec denied that Joselito Cayetano's MR was filed within the prescribed period.

The next day, the Comelec en banc issued a resolution upholding the decision of the first division declaring Joselito Cayetano a nuisance candidate and ordered that his name be stricken off the official list of candidates.

But on May 12—two days before Election Day—the Comelec en banc ordered that it was stopping the Joselito Cayetano was still a final candidate until its resolution becomes final after ten days, and will be filed an appeal before the Supreme Court.

The Comelec's law department also said in a memo to all BEIs that all "Cayetano" votes should be considered stray. With reports from Jerry Esplanada and Mike Navas

No, this is not my son'; Jonas Burgos still missing

By Inquirer staff

health officer who examined the body which had two gunshot wounds in the head. "Did you see my birthmarks in a mole at the back?" When told that these were gone, Burgos looked closer at the picture again.

"My fingernails are not cut and done. His hair-line is different. No, this is not my son," said Burgos, relative of the late newspaper publisher and press freedom fighter Jose "Joe" Burgos Jr., the father of Jonas.

Burgos arrived here on Tuesday with Mahajan Step, Rita Baraan, Philippine National Police (PNP) head of human rights affairs Chief Supt. Gerardo Bonto and a team from the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the National Investigation and Detention Service (CHR) to verify the identity of the male cadaver found on a rough road in Barangay Sinabuan, some 300 meters from the highway.

Strangulation marks

Morales, who examined the body, said the heads of the dead men were tied behind his back with a black cord. She said the cadaver also bore strangulation marks on the neck. She said the man in his bare feet dead six to eight hours before the body was discovered.

The police report described the cadaver as thin built and fair complexioned, about 5 feet 6 inches tall, probably between 35 and 39 years old and wearing denim pants, flotsam rubber shoes and a polo shirt colored blue and white.

The description bore a resemblance to the missing 38-year-old Jonas. An agriculturist, Jonas was missing before pressure on organic farming when he was abducted on April 28 at the Gateway Gas Mall on Gateway-north Avenue in Quezon City.

But his mother was certain it was not his son Jonas. "There are not his fingernails, they are too soft-soft," Burgos told the reporters. She said they were also able to talk to her son on April 29. "But he sounded drugged or incoherent," she also said.

"There must be a mother and still somewhere who is also looking for a missing son or husband. Please make the necessary announcement so this man can be properly identified," Burgos said the Abaya spokes.

Experienced in tracking

The police had buried the unidentified cadaver at the municipal cemetery here on May 2.

CHR Chair Purificacion Quisumbing supported the step following a report that the cadaver's mistress about an ambulance driver that the police buried after it lay unclaimed at the V. Soriano funeral parlor here for days.

The sending of the cooperative team was on "expressed" orders to find missing activists since Presidential Management Assistant assumed power in 2006.

"Can you imagine how it is to lose a son or daughter?" Quisumbing told Bonto of the PNP. "He will have to find them, not by me."

Kampanya, a human rights group, has listed over 180 victims of forced disappearance since 2001. The group has blamed the military for the disappearances.

The Burgos family suspects the military was involved in the abduction of Jonas after the son, 8, some days (Oct 194) which was used in the primary vehicle was traced to another vehicle that was impounded last year in the 56th Infantry Battalion headquarters in Kawayanan Bukidnon.

THE SEARCH FOR DENNIS BURGOS goes on after his widowed mother Edita Burgos, Rep. Rita Baraan and other human rights groups visit a site where a man found dead in Abucay, Bataan, turned out not to be the missing activist. (INQUIRER)

Palace cold to prospect of a Sen. Trillanes

TRILLANES

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG WELCOMES "cold war"

Malacañang is cold to the prospect of Undersecretary Lorraine Badoy in forming a Trillanes Watch Committee to keep an eye on one of the honorable members of the new Senate to fully serve the people.

Trillanes, who campaigned hard for presidential aspirant Senator Manuel Villar Jr., made an unexpectedly strong showing in the May 14 polls in what is widely seen as a stinging rebuke of the Arroyo administration.

"If he gets elected then he will use to acquit himself of the military justice system and the civilian courts on the coup d'etat charges against him," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said.

It is to see whether the government will allow him out of detention should he win a seat there, Ermita said. "That's another story. there is some against him."

Ermita said Trillanes' good showing in early poll indicates could be due to his high media exposure in Metro Manila.

Ermita said Trillanes' popularity and high public awareness rating is likely due to his participation in Oakwood, a stalemate mutiny populated named after the posh hotel in Makati City that was under siege by Trillanes and other officers and young officers. They denounced corruption in the military leadership and called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down.

"But his assum was wrong as he is in jail now. How he will be able to get out of that is another story. It cause to a corner," Ermita said.

Ermita also believes Trillanes only tanked in Metro Manila. "I don't know how he will fare in the Visayas and Mindanao... especially in Mindanao," he said.

Although Trillanes has been projected to being robustly matched, Ermita said his good showing did not mean the administration opposed of his means of smearing his opponents. "Whether can it be considered a repudiation of Mr. Arroyo," Ermita concluded.

"He succeeds and he then just looked at him as a young man with ambition and, as you said, rebels-minded but's no whether that would be enough reason for him to be honored," Ermita said.

Earlier, Mehar Mangudadatu, president of the survey from Social Weather Stations, said that perception that Trillanes won because he provocated could be the reason for the relief, officer's energizing showing even without personally being able to campaign.

Senator Opposition campaign manager Serge Osmeña II described him as their "dark horse."

Isn't government possible also see it as a warning that military unrest remains a problem to be reckoned with.

Aside from Trillanes, he is accused in the 2003 military mutiny, former rebel colonel Gregorio Honasan II also showing up well in the initial tallies, while former Philippine National Police-chief Hadrin Lacson is in the top five.

Asean air chiefs due for confab

By Tarra Quismundo

AIR DEFENSES from around Southeast Asia will gather in Manila on July 1 for an annual fellowship aimed at strengthening their brotherhood and sharing experiences and ideas to better protect their territories and the region.

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) will host the 4th Annual Air Chief's Conference in what are now the final preparations on the 30-hectare grounds of the Air Force of Asian Conversation of Southeast Asian Nations's countries including Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Set on July 1 to 5, the event will bring the 10 Asean air chiefs together for the first time in Manila, coinciding with PAF's celebration of its 60th anniversary.

WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

"**IBBW 2000**" is the brand name of a popular high quality ballpoint pen manufactured abroad, owned and distributed by **IBBW Enterprise Company**, with offices located at Rm. 705 Medilo de Divisoria, Binondo, Manila. **IBBW Enterprise Company** has pending patent applications for the Industrial Design, as well as the Trademark, with the Intellectual Property Office, with Application Serial No. 05-2006-000033 and 06-2005-001533.

Below is a photograph of the genuine **IBBW 2000** ballpoint pen:

It has come to the attention of **IBBW Enterprise Company** that a number of manufacturers, taking advantage of the popularity of the ballpen, has been using the same design and features in their own product. The size, color and appearance of the ballpen they are manufacturing and distributing are similar if not completely identical to the original **IBBW 2000**. Hint that they would place their own brand or trademark on their ballpen in order to **MISLEAD** the public.

We would like to warn the public about the imitation ballpoint pen. **IBBW Enterprise Company** is the owner of the Industrial Design with a pending patent application. To be sure, purchase **IBBW 2000** ballpoint pens only from authorized and reputable dealers and outlet stores.

As for those who reply in the imitation ballpen, this is a clear case of violation of R.A. 8293, a criminal activity which carries with it penal as well as civil sanctions under the provisions of R.A. 8293, and related laws, rules and regulations. We have enlisted the aid of various law enforcement agencies and legal action is forthcoming. Cease and desist now or face the consequences.

IBBW ENTERPRISE CO
Rm. 705 Bodega Sales Center
Medilo de Divisoria
Binondo, Manila
Tel. Nos. 241-5954 to 62
Fax No. 241-7870

ANG & ASSOCIATES
Counsel for IBBW Enterprises
No. 18 Temperance Lane, Inlavilla Subd.
Brgy. Culiat, Quezon City
Telephone Numbers: 925-3328 to 39
Telefax: 927-8328
E-mail Address: [illegible]

ENJOY 80% SAVINGS ON ELECTRICITY COST!

Join the thousands of IWATA Aircon being used by many companies & enjoy Big Reductions on their Electricity Bills!

*IWATA
EVAPORATIVE AIR CONDITIONER

and Save about 80% on your aircon Electricity Bills
Energy Saving & Environmental Friendly & No CFC Pollution

No Compressor, No Condenser, No Freon Gas, Easy Operation. Just plug it to any 220 V outlet & start enjoying your big savings on electricity bill!

Available in reduced air conditioning & Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) as air cooling out of the premises with no chemical pollutants!

For more info! Sole Agent COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
Suite 200 De Monte Mansion, Tel Monte Drive cor. Timoteo Pinon St. Quezon City
Tels.: 412-1611 (P) ; 3246 to 48, 741-1836; Fax: 411-3246
e-mail: colent@pacific.net.ph Cebu Dealer: 032 - 261 - 8846

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN RE: APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED MODIFIED BILL FORMAT OF PANAGHIBAN I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PANELCO I)

ERC CASE NO. 2007-043 MC

NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Notice is hereby given that the public consultation on Panaghiban I Electric Cooperative, Incorporated (PANELCO I) Proposed Modified Bill Format is scheduled on May 24, 2007 (Thursday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M.) at the PANELCO I Conference Room, San Jose, Baro, Panaghiban.

All interested parties may submit their comments (both oral and self-copies on the Proposed Modified Bill Format on or before May 11, 2007. Failure to submit the requested copies will be deemed as waiver of the right to be heard in the public consultation. Parties who have filed their written comments or submitted the requested copies will be given priority during the above-scheduled public consultation. The Proposed Modified Bill Format may be downloaded at www.erc.gov.ph or obtained at the ERC Main Office at the above-mentioned address.

Pasig City, April 25, 2007

FOR AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION:

(Sgd.) ALEXANDRA D. BASRI
Commissioner

Republic of the Philippines
Department of National Defense
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES MEDICAL CENTER
Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES MEDICAL CENTER (AFPMC), through the General Fund, intends to apply the sum of Three Million Eight Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱3,800,000.00) being the approved budget for the contract (ABC) to payments under the Procurement of Various Drugs and Medicines. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center now invites Bids from eligible bidders for Drugs and Medicines. Delivery of the goods is required by [illegible] 2007. Bidding documents may be acquired by interested bidders on the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to entities or organizations duly accredited by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and registered with the Philippine Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB). The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall submit to the post-qualification process in order to finally determine the compliance of the said bidder to the requirements, terms and conditions of the contract. Bidders shall submit their bids through their duly authorized representatives using the forms prescribed in the Bidding Documents. Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who were determined to have passed the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Administrative Officer, Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 07:00 AM to 03:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of [illegible] (₱[illegible]). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center now invites a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on May 24, 2007 - 2:00 PM at AFPMC Auditorium.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the address below on or before 9:00 AM of June 6, 2007. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash or Cashier's/Manager's Check, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Irrevocable Letter of Credit and valid for a period of [illegible] days.

Bid opening shall be on June 6, 2007 9:00 AM at AFPMC Auditorium. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES MEDICAL CENTER
JOSE C. CHUA, MD, FPCS, FPCA, MHA
Chief of Hospital
Signature: [illegible]
Date: [illegible]
Camp Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City
Telephone Number: [illegible]
Email Address: [illegible]

TU 12-0 in Maguindanao; Singson is topnotcher

From page A1

men and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on rigging votes in Mindanao during the 2004 elections. Mr. Arroyo and Garcillano denied the allegations.

As of 7:33 p.m. Tuesday, partial results from 11 Maguindanao municipalities showed Singson, the governor of Ilocos Sur, topping the senatorial race with 87,994 votes.

Roilo Golez, Ilocos Sur's son-in-law, had 87,400 votes.

Others in the top 12 in Maguindanao were Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri, 86,698 votes; Joker Arroyo, 85,881; Vicente Sotto III, 85,153; Ralph Recto, 82,780; Mike Defensor, 81,914; Cesar Montano, 79,296; Winnie Magsaysay, 65,986; Teresita Squiler-Doria, 64,286; Edgardo Angara, 63,632; and Isidro Sabas Jr., Isidro Ditan III, 63,077 votes.

Trailing in his own backyard

Singson's No. 5 ranking in Maguindanao clearly contrasted with his nationwide ranking in the score of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), which put the 62-year-old actor-politician in the top of the senatorial races.

Singson also appeared to be the top (lady) in his own Ilocos region.

Although he was No. 1 in his home province of Ilocos Sur, he was ranked No. 10 in Ilocos Norte, No. 11 in Pangasinan and No. 16 in La Union, according to unofficial returns in.

In the Maguindanao vote by Catholic Opposition (LK) candidates Francis Escudero got 87,620 votes; Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, 79,571; Loren Legarda, 70,434, and Manuel Villar, 17,895.

Amputees as kingmaker

Maguindanao provincial administrator Norie Unas yesterday said the smuggling money by TU was a result of extensive consultations held by provincial vice Gov. Sakal Ampatuan with all officials of the province's local government units.

Ampatuan, who has allied himself with President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration, reportedly became a successful businessman. He is viewed as Maguindanao's de facto ruler-archbargainer.

The TU has said that so-called "communal votes" from its halfwrists would push administration candidates to the top of the senatorial races.

"Are they not tired of accusing us of an unfounded plan to cheat? That's totally baseless," TU's campaign strategist Ben Evardone said, rejecting opposition claims that the administration was rigging the votes.

Unas said one objective of the consultations that Ampatuan held with officials was to get people to go to the polls and vote. The consultations included such matters as who the people should throne as their leaders.

Consensus

Unas said observers should look at Maguindanao's distinct political reality in the context of the Peoples Mindanao Council's consultations and efforts in part of those.

Failure to heed the consensus is sanctioned, said Unas, who did not specify what punishment awaited those who defied the consensus.

The elites land in the headlines because of their corrupt exploitation, but if you become familiar with the (Islamic) culture of consultation, you would find nothing unusual," said Unas.

Unas said the outcome of the senatorial races in Maguindanao should be just the result of simple addition.

He said unnamed vote-rustlers in Maguindanao because of the provincial leadership's "strong advocacy of upholding Moro civilities and culture."

Doubtful credibility

In Lanao del Sur, poll monitors and barangay observers said Monday's elections in the province drew a large turnout but their credibility was doubtful.

Hadji Abdullah Balding, Namfrel provincial chair, said the same trend seen "that spoiled the 2004 and even previous elections" entered Monday's balloting.

The incidents included armed confrontations among rivals, intimidation of poll watchers and vote-buying, the influx of truckloads of flying voters, and disenfranchisement of legitimate ones.

Pakistani observer Mosarat Qadeem said there was massive "use of money on power in favor of votes or in vote for a candidate."

Although the turnout was high, Qadeem doubted that the people in general "have real feelings for its [election's] essence."

Jump in number of voters

Balding said the "unexplained growth" of the province's voting population was "the foremost proof of irregularity."

From 375,572 in 2004, the number of registered voters in the province rose to 398,722, an increase of 6.9% across to three years.

For Buzzer, the voting population increased by 36.4%, from 37,225 in 2004, a 33.7 percent increase.

Those numbers dwarfed those in Northern Mindanao, one of the island's most populous regions. The region had 2,128,358 registered voters in 2007, a 4-percent increase from 2,046,337 in 2004.

The supposed growth in Lanao del Sur's voting population occurred as thousands of legitimate voters were disenfranchised. Many of them searched for their names in the other precincts until 4 p.m., to no avail.

The civil society-initiated People's International Observer Mission 2004 also documented the presence of thousands of voters as young as 13 to 16 years old to vote.

Flying voters also littered the province.

The rumors dogged down-related by sending a bombing [cell] as they lined up to enter a polling center. But they could not hide their accents.

The turnout turned many of them came from Iligan City and other towns. Some came from as far as Cagayan de Oro City.

Conditions for fraud

In many areas, polling centers opened two hours behind schedule, lessening voting time.

The debate led to a building of charges of voters and to chaos in polling centers.

According to a Sunwestern observer Jessica Bellido, the chaos occurred "all the conditions for cheating and fraud" to take place.

The 4200 delegates found that vote-buying and counting of votes inside election precincts were "very rampant with the poll watchers acting hostile voters dictating the names to be written on the ballots."

Some election observers were stunned about the frequency of brownouts, which could shut counting.

The Commission on Elections has declared a failure of elections in 18 towns in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

In Kotonadal City, a partner of the Pentecostal Church accused two congressional candidates of distributing five kilos of rice for each family in the province.

In Zamboanga del Norte, vote-buying was also widespread.

"I don't receive anything from government, anyway, as I'll rather accept the P1,500 for my vote," said a voter in Baybay City.

But in Sulu, the police said they were surprised by how relatively peaceful the conduct of the elections was.

Targeted areas for cheating

Quoting a purported intelligence report on "Oplan Mercury Rising," the coalition Bantay Boto, composed of retired military and police officers, claimed the areas targeted for massive cheating were Basilan, Pampanga, Camarines Norte, Cebu, Bohol, Leyte, Eastern Samar, Lanao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and Shariff Kabunsuan.

The regions identified for alleged fraud operations were Central Visayas, Davao, Caraga and the ARMM.

Those areas are rumored to have close to 3 million voters.

Bantay Boto and local government and Comelec officials had been "offered huge cash incentives" to deliver a 12-0 win by TU, with reports from Michael Lim Ubac in Manila, Jeffrey M. Tupas, Gerardine Lanorio, Kemal Bergson, Julie C. Alipala, Argilyn Martires, Bert Lopez, Franklin Montemayor, Jeff Fernandez, Ferdinand G. Bocobo, Jil Bermio and Inquirer Mindanao

Trillanes hangs on to Magic 12

From page A1

TU's Juan Miguel Zubiri who earlier placed 12th in the winning circle dropped to No. 13 with 3 billionaire results.

From 8th place, Trillanes slid to 13th place yesterday afternoon before climbing to 11th place late night. TU's Edgardo Angara and Joker Arroyo maintained their steady climb in the Magic 12 in the blended count.

GO's Francis Escudero, who was enabling Team GO candidate Loren Legarda yesterday afternoon, captured the top slot late night but by a very narrow margin of 1156 votes.

GO's Dan Dove Gazmen climbed to 9th place in 10th, overlapping places with Independent Benjamin Abalos who slid to 10th. Aquilino Pimentel III of GO dropped from 11th place to 12th.

The moments, group Gabriela was the front-runner among party-list groups, led by Rep. Liza Maza and Rep. Mario Aguja, 5th district.

In its headquarters at the Lechaflan in Guadalupe, San Juan, Namfrel had on its second wave from 26,594 precincts from 40 provinces.

Results from 15 countries

Over at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City, the official Comelec tabulation of the certificates of canvass (COC) for the senatorial elections began proceedings with results from 15 countries and 14 US territory in the overseas absentee voting.

The votes came from the following countries: Laos, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, South Korea, Sweden, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Netherlands, Aruba, India, Thailand, Bahrain, and Palau, 4 US territory.

There was a total of 20,469 registered voters in those places but only 3,742 or almost 13 percent voted in that.

Only one voted in Slovenia, 80 votes were cast in Brunei and fourteen Islands.

Angara came from 11th place at the start of the Namfrel tabulation Tuesday morning to 7th place last night, while Arroyo climbed from 14th to 8th place.

Isagani topped tabulations in Regions 1, 2, 8, 11, 12 and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Escudero was No. 1 in Metro Manila, Regions 4, 5 and 10, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Caraga.

Angara remained in 1st place in Central Luzon and Region 7.

Pimentel Lacson of GO was No. 1 in Region 9 tabulations and maintained his 3rd place standing in the blended count with 998,857 votes.

GO's guest incumbent Manuel Villar was first in Region 6 and placed fourth in the Namfrel list.

Independent candidate Francisco Tatad was steady at No. 5.

Benigno Aquino III also maintained his standing in 6th place.

Trailing Trillanes

Trailing Trillanes were Senator Juan Ponce Enrile at No. 14; Ralph Recto at No. 15; Mike Defensor at No. 16.

GO's Sonia Roco was in 17th place followed TU's Cesar Montano and GO's John Titandeo.

Along with Trillanes, Sotto and Drilon's rankings dropped dramatically as tabulations from the various regions came in yesterday.

Roco married in 13th place when Namfrel began its tabulation. Defensor initially was in 20th place.

Pichay enjoyed a steady climb from No. 18 since Namfrel began its count.

Comelec count

In the Comelec count, Magdiwan was in 1st place, followed by Legarda. Aquino was in 3rd place, Villar, 4th, and Escudero, 5th. Arroyo was in 6th place, Lacson, 7th, Gazmen, 8th, Angara, 9th, Pimentel, 10th, Roco, 11th, and Defensor, 12th.

Dalisay was in 13th

3 Pinays first SEA women to conquer Mt. Everest

From page A1

women to traverse Everest, climbing from the South Side to the peak, then down the South Side. The first ascent of Everest was done by Wilt Unsoeld and Tom Hornbein on May 22, 1963. Tibetan Phantog is the first woman to reach the summit from the North Side on May 01, 1975).

The distinction of being the first women to traverse Mt. Everest cost the team an extra $9,000 in fees—$3,000 for each climber for the permit to traverse the mountain from the north to the south side.

Ascending to Addre, the team on hope to reach Camp 2 on the South Side (established at 6,500 meters or 21,300 feet) today, and Everest Base Camp (at 5,200 m or 17,000 ft) tomorrow.

Bubba said Mercydita, 27, who had earlier suffered from acute mountain sickness, reached the summit at 6:39 a.m. Nepal time (around 8:54 a.m. Philippine time) together with her Sherpa guide Lakpa Gyalzen.

Dependent, 28, arrived 50 minutes later with Ambu Chot.

Bubba said Bernadette, also 28, reached the top at around 7:45 a.m. Nepal time with Pasang Dorje. (Bel ASH GIB, a spokesman of the climb, put Bernadette's time at around 11 a.m. Manila time.)

Bernadette delivered her first baby girl, Ysabella Mae, on Dec. 28, 2006, a boy, to named Mohaizza.

"They are in good health condition, high spirits," team doctor Ted Ilapanit said in a text message to officials monitoring the expedition in Manila yesterday morning.

"They are encouraged by the prayers of their friends and families. They are feeling strong," Ilapanit said.

1st Asean women

Bubba said Mercydita, Bernadette and Bebet have also had a link on the title "the first South east Asian women to summit Mt. Everest."

A Malaysian woman is on South Side this climbing season, but the Filipinos beat her to the punch because the North Side has no such fee summit window.

Indonesian Clara Sumarwati was said to have reached the peak in 1996, but mountaineers told the Inquirer that this feat was disputed.

On May 16, 1975, Junko Tabei of Japan became the first woman to reach the summit of Everest from the South side. The Filipina women's feat came 32 years to the day.

Until one year ago today, Lee Chanyeol, member of the ROK Army, to reach the top of Everest. Two others—Pemba Dorjee and Kami Gardsen—followed such a day each later.

"The girls are in good shape and the weather is very clear, with winds of between 20 and 30 km per hour. It's a great moment. It symbolizes what we can do if we work together," Addre said.

"It also shows the strength of the Filipino drug Pinoy resolve (ang tatlak) Inlay ng Pinoy (The Pinoy warrior the peak; the Pinoy can)," he said, repeating the slogan for this year's expedition.

More treacherous route

The North Side route is considered the more treacherous compared to the South Side.

Addre, who called from the Tibet Advanced Base Camp at 6,300 m or 21,200 ft, lamented the conditions on the route.

"Mas mahirap dito (It's harder here). It's hard to breathe here. The Tibet advance Base Camp is higher than the South Side Base Camp," he said in between coughs.

Addre was at the South Side Base Camp as a member of the support team of Oracion and Tanita last year.

Meanwhile, Dependent and Bernadette had been scheduled to push for the summit last week, but had to postpone their target because of bad weather.

Traffic jam

They also had to make an early push for the summit to avoid the "traffic jams" on the way down the South Side, Addre said.

Team climber Dagnayen "Sonk Lee" Mercydita, who was officially with preliminary criteria.

"Every step of the way the doctor was monitoring her condition," Addre said.

Addre and Dagnayen were accompanied by Sirdars on the South Side.

Starting at the South Side are Oracion, John Ferrer of the Philippine Airlines Mountaineering Club, and Watanabe's father Noriyo.

The First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE) team was formed by Addre and co-expedition leader Butch Sebastian two years ago.

The two men chose experienced adventure racers and mountaineers to join the first Filipinos on Everest.

A physical education major at the University of the Philippines, Dependent is an "excellent adventure athlete," Dragon Boat racer and a member of the UP Mountaineers.

Dependent, the youngest member of the team, has been scaling mountains since she was 17 and excelling at the Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City.

Bebet Inico is a champion triathlete, and also an adventure racer. Inico, known as a rock sports climber, Ultimate instructor, and a member of the UP Mountaineers.

The team went into training in earnest, flying to New Zealand to lead's all-the climbing. In August 2005, the three women reached the summit of Mt. Manaspli this (7,348 m or 24,754 ft) on the China-Pak latan border. This was the previous record for the highest altitude reached by any Filipino women.

On June 23, 2006, the team scaled Mt. McKinley (6,194 m or 20,320 ft.) at the Denali National Park in Alaska, the highest peak in North America. In October last year, the team was at Mt. Cho Oyu in the Himalayas, the ninth highest mountain at 8,201 m or 26,906 ft.

The team split up sometime in December 2006 over personal problems and disagreements over Addre's handling of it summit.

The disunited let to the resignation of Addre, who was reinstated by the team's driving force.

Addre later took the three women, Ilanit, Oracion and two other FPMEE members under his wing to continue the planned climb of Everest.

Sebastian and team leader Biggie Feliks took in the others and planned on their own to scale Everest. (See box.)

Coast Guard

Mercydita, Dependent and Bebet are members of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), with the rank of Seawoman First.

EVEREST, HERE THEY COME. Three days before their departure for Nepal, Carina Dayondon, Noelle Wenceslao and Janet Belarmino pose for a souvenir shot with the Coast Guard interlocution officer Armand Bello. COAST GUARD

A BABY NAMED HIMALAYA. Seamstress Janet Belarmino delivered her baby just five months before her historic rise to the roof of the world. PHOTOGRAPH BY ALBERTO

Another Filipino expected to reach top soon

ANOTHER FILIPINO TEAM IS ALSO aiming to reach the summit of Mt. Everest.

The team, which is on the South Side, is headed by Biggie Feliks, a leader of the original First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition team that has broken up into two factions.

Feliks told the Inquirer last month that he, too, was determined to take a route and climb the South Side to route to the summit.

It is unclear who his companions are.

It is quite possible that two teams bound for the same passes but split by personal differences and money problems may actually meet on the world's highest mountain. —Alexis Pajo

Priest's rival claims victory; Padaca rises in Isabela

From page A1

Pichilo, 53, said he considered it "unproper" for Pineda to make the victory announcement.

Pineda countered her supposed win through her running mate, Vice Governor Celso, in a press conference in the City of San Fernando.

Surrounded by 11 candidates of the Kabalikat ng Mabuyong Pilipino (Kampi), Pineda said the provincial board members were official copies of election returns.

Pineda, he said, won by 31,280 votes over Bonifacio, an independent candidate.

Celso said the election returns, which garnered "99" for the "precinct" of voters, had 298,327 votes for Pineda, 149,627 for Pichilo, and 170,981 for Layid.

Celso said he garnered 241,132 votes and won against Layid's running mate, Paul Dominguez.

He said Kampi obtained the documents through Liberal Party provincial chair Francisco Gudoli, a Kampi ally. The LP as a dominant political party is allowed by the Commission on Elections to get copies of the COEs.

Celso said the early announcement was made to thank Kampi supporters, to stop all speculations on the outcome of Monday's elections, and to end "insecurities especially in the media."

Asked by the lawyers who among provincial officials supposed movement in the posts, Celso named television networks GMA 7 and ABS-CBN that "tended to create a trend" on who was winning through independent but unofficial counts.

Pineda did not attend the press conference because she was said to be "tired" after the campaign season, he said.

Layid, 38, felt offended by the announcement.

"In fairness to the people of Pampanga, no partisan should at this time come forward to claim victory," he said, speaking through his chief campaigner Jerry Bautista. "Pineda is not the Comelec. She could not figure out she is not the Comelec."

He said the contest was "still close to call."

Supporters of Pichilo organized a 4-0 p.m. Mass in front of the Brix 2 Celso Convention Center where the provincial canvassing began yesterday afternoon in anticipation "lookout and just" canvassing.

One of his supporters, businessman Daniel Bautista, said the vigils would ignite into protest rallies as expressions of indignation against election fraud and the supposed victory of Pineda, wife of ousted gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda.

ISABELA: Padaca, Dy claim victories

The camps of reelectionist Gov. Maria Grazia Cielo Padaca and her rival, former Gov. Benjamin Dy, have both claimed victory in the gubernatorial race in Isabela.

Padaca yesterday clarified reports that she was losing in 2004, she folded the reelection lead of Dy's leaders. Interim Gen. Francisco Dy Jr.

Padaca's election of possible vote-shaving by her opponents to overhaul her dismissal in the latest unofficial count. She said her biggest concern was the lack of lawyers that would guard her votes in the official canvassing.

She noted that she was reported to be trailing in the third district where, she admitted, Dy made a strong showing.

According to her camp's own monitoring in 28 towns, Padaca was leading by 40,888 votes.

Padaca was confident that Dy's reported lead in Cauayan City and other towns in the third district would be offset by her lead in other districts.

According to a partial and unofficial result from Namfrel volunteers, Padaca garnered 52,379 votes while Dy got 52,076. The figures came from 52 towns.

In the Comelec count that started on Tuesday night, Padaca topped 29,347 votes while Dy got 22,666. The results, as of 9 a.m. yesterday, came from automated statements of votes in eight towns.

By said his victory would have been ensured if not for the alleged manipulation of votes done by the camp of Representative Rodolfo Bi, Padaca's ally in the first district.

Albano said he went to Metro Manila after Monday's elections and was overseeing from an distance. "In four out 2,943 claim that I am rigging votes in favor of Governor Padaca?" he asked.

PADILLO

PADACA

MUENA ECIJA: Jaxon in peril

The hold of the Jaxon clan on the top elective position in Nueva Ecija is in danger after partial and unofficial results from Namfrel and the PPCRV showed that Governor Tomas Cloma is not leading Rep. Antonio Umali in the gubernatorial race.

Results from eight towns and one city showed Umali morning, 117,754 votes and Jaxon getting 84,976. The results came from Bongo, Zaragoza, Bongabon, Gabaldon, Laur, Sta. Rosa, Gov. Tinio and Palayan City town and Palayan City.

Jaxon belongs to the Ruping Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Bulanay) and Kampi. Salazar, the dominant political party in the province, was formed by the Jaxon patriarch, the late Gov. Eduardo Jaxon, in 1987. Mariano Cloma is the current chair of Salazar.

Jaxon's running mate, Board Member Ashwell "Bulanay Jaxon" Salazar explains was leading Jose "Popoy" Tarnate, 97,307 votes to 82,488.

It was not also a good showing for outgoing Gov. Tomas Jaxon III, brother of Bluebear Celestino and who is running for congress of Cabanatuan City. He was trailing by more than 10,000 votes against Alvin Vergara, a cousin of outgoing Mayor Julius Cesar Vergara.

In the canvassing conducted by the city government, Tomas III received 32,615 votes while Vergara had 44,815.

Two other Jaxons—Eduardo Jaxon IV, who is running for representative of the third district, and former Gov. Eduardo Nonato Jaxon, who is running for representative of the first district—were trailing.

ILOCOS NORTE: Marcos eagle at work

The so-called Marcos magic seems to be working for Board Member Michael Keon, who is leading the gubernatorial race against former Gov. Rodolfo Fariñas.

Based on the PPCRV count as of 11 a.m. yesterday, Keon was leading with 93,016 votes over Fariñas' 54,209. The results were taken in 16 towns where counting of votes have been completed.

Keon, from Laoag City and six other towns, however, have only been counted partially. The city with more or 60,000 registered voters, is considered the Fariñas' bailiwick.

Keon is the son of Governor Imee Marcos Gov. Elizabeth Marcos-Keon, the younger sister of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

Fariñas counts and outgoing Gov. Bernardo "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. is currently campaigning for the senate in the country's first district to be canvassed before he can be proclaimed representative. He can resign proud.

CAMARINES SUR: Data rival concedes

The small town politician, who was against President Macapagal-Arroyo's son, Dinahlab "Dato" Arroyo, yesterday conceded defeat in the congressional race in the first district of Camarines Sur, although the results of outstanding had not to survive in the Comelec office in Naga City.

Mayor Salvio Mahiodo of San Fernando town, a candidate of the Liberal Party said he had learned that running against a formidable opponent would be a much tougher proposition than for the advocacy of politics of inducement is no mark.

Mahiodo said he only won in Pasacao and his hometown. The four districts has Woreama and at least 300,000 registered voters.

"Despite massive vote-buying and deployment of the Army we still exceeded the opponents expectations by giving me 35 percent of the total votes cast even though we had touched only 40 percent of the registered voters," he said.

Based on unofficial tallies of the Inquirer as 8,476 precincts as of 2:30 p.m. yesterday, Arroyo had 66,556 votes and Mahiodo, 41,206.

Arroyo is the official candidate of Kampi.

In the three other districts, the Presidency allies were also leading in the Standard count.

In second Rep. Felix Alfelor (Kampi) was leading in the fourth district with 22,434 votes. He rival, Dioscoro Bobis Cunico (PRP) got only 5,439.

Based on Comelec results as of Wednesday noon, Rep. Luis E. Villafuerte (Kampi) garnered 146,511 votes in the third district, while his opponent, Salipada K. Sinsi Jr. (Dilayon Demokratiko) got only 9,860 votes in the towns of Bombon, Magarao, Canaman and Gainza.

Rep. Luis Villafuerte's son, Gov. Luis Raymund "Lray" Villafuerte Jr. (Lakas-CMD), earned 144,198 votes in the four towns of the second district, this opponent, Eduardo Filapil (Kampi), garnered 55,737.

Incumbent Vice Gov. Salvio Pedraza (Lakas-CMD) was also leading with 105,404 votes, followed by Felipe Bartolo Ortega (Kampi), with 58,078.

CEBU: Tanny-Daniela win

Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña got a fresh mandate for a third term after his strongest opponent, batanga' chair Mary Ann de los Santos, conceded defeat on Tuesday.

"I have given Cebu City an alternative. The Osmeñas have been in power for so long. And the people have spoken. And I believe that they still want Mayor Osmeña to rule the city of Cebu," De los Santos said.

She said she would support projects that would redound to the benefit of the city.

Provincial Board Member Lucy Quinambing Gahan (NPC) is expected to topple Rep. Benito Ibon Rama (Kampi) in the fourth district.

Governor Gwen Garcia de la Serna, who also ran in the congressional race, claimed that Quinambing would be declared the winner because of massive vote-buying he alleged that the Quinambing camp spent P500 to P1,000 per voter.

Both Quinambing and Ibon Rama claimed victory. Reports from Sharon Dreyza and Sunshine Reojas, Inquirer Central Luzon; Melvin Gascon, Gilbert Hosaya Jr. and Cristina Arradaza, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Jeannette Andrade-Reojas, Inquirer Central Luzon; Jane Bonander Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon; and Jhannes Napallacan, Inquirer Mindo

ON EVE OF HR VOTE

Palace orders probe of killings, poll violence

By Jaime Laking Severino and Cynthia D. Balana

RESPONDING TO INTERNATIONAL criticism, President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the filing of at least 20 cases before the year is over against those responsible for extrajudicial and election-related killings.

The President issued the order on Tuesday after election observers from the European Commission and the United States expressed concern about the violence that marred the elections last Monday, according to Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo.

Saludo said the President ordered the Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces and the Department of Justice to "increase their investigative and legal resources to curb the series of violent incidents related to the just-concluded midterm elections and unexplained killings" of militants and journalists.

These agencies will be consulting with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP), "while utilizing technical assistance offered by the European Commission and other foreign entities," he said.

Ms Arroyo gave a similar deadline early last year when she ordered authorities to file cases a week against suspects in the unexplained killings of militants and members of the media.

The Arroyo administration has been severely criticized by foreign governments and international institutions over the killings.

UN vote

Despite the Philippines' unpleasantness between rights record, the Department of Foreign Affairs is confident that the country will be re-elected to the 47-seat United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

"We will get it," DFA spokesperson Gloria Crescini told reporters, citing a report from the Philippine mission to the UN that expressed that the country's bid for reelection to the UNHRC had the support of a number of UN member states.

Crescini said the new coalition the government's efforts to address the issue of unsolved political killings would be enough the negative image generated by the issue.

She said the accredited Asian bloc in the UN was supporting the Philippines' reelection bid as well as those of India, Indonesia and China.

"They are aware of what is happening in the country. Our case was even discussed before the Human Rights Council in one of its meetings in Geneva, Switzerland this year," he said.

The Philippines has been criticized worldwide, particularly by the United States and the European Union, for its worsening human rights record.

The UN Special Rapporteur Philip Alston, in a preliminary report in the UNHRC last March, accused the Philippine government of tolerating extra-judicial killings by the military.

The UN General Assembly is set to elect on Thursday new members to the Geneva-based UNHRC against a backdrop of strong opposition from civil society to the candidacies of alleged rights violators such as Belarus and Egypt.

At least 16 countries are vying for 13 council seats which are allocated on a regional geographical basis.

Rights record

Each candidate is evaluated based on criteria such as political rights and political freedoms, freedom of the press and human rights promotion at the UN.

The Philippines won a one-year term to the newly established council in May 2006.

Membership is limited to two consecutive terms, and any council member may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly.

The Council's 47 seats are distributed among the UN's regional groups as follows: 13 for Africa, 13 for Asia, six for Eastern Europe, eight for Latin America and the Caribbean, and seven for the Western European and Others Group.

The panel was created last year under an assembly resolution specifying that "members elected to the council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights" and will be subject to periodic review.

Elevated to the status of a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, the council replaced the discredited 53-member Human Rights Commission, which was an independent body as part of UN reforms.

The Inquirer compares the number of political killings since Ms Arroyo assumed office in 2001 at 301. Other reports put the number of politicians killed since 2001 at 27. With AFP

CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE JUNKED

SC upholds dual citizenship

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS UPHELD the constitutionality of Republic Act 9225 or the country's dual citizenship law.

In its May 15 decision, the high tribunal dismissed a petition that questioned the constitutionality of the dual citizenship law and asserted that dual allegiance was harmful to the national interest.

The petition, filed by Heroes Calilung of the Advocates and Adherents of Social Justice for United Nationalists and Allied Workers against former Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong, said dual allegiance must be dealt with by law as stated in the Constitution.

But the high court said the dual citizenship law passed in 2003, did not deal with the matter of allegiance.

"It is the purpose of the law to answer in to restore the Philippine citizenship of Filipinos who became naturalized citizens of other countries.

"On its face, it does not recognize dual allegiance. By reverting to the registrant citizenship of the Republic, the persons implicitly renounced his foreign citizenship," the ruling said.

It quoted Rep. Teodoro Locsin as stating in congressional deliberations that the problem of dual allegiance is restricted from the Philippines to the foreign country because the laws each that the former Filipino would take is the case of allegiance to the Philippines.

"What happens in the other states, ship was not inside a concern of ship, Act No. 9225," the court said.

"Congress was given a mandate to draft a law that would set specific parameters of what really constitutes dual allegiance. Until this is done, it would be premature for the judicial department, including this Court, to rule on issues pertaining to dual allegiance," it said.

It added that it has to respect the legislative branch of government and practice judicial restraint in judging the lawmakers' acts.

"Moreover, in Estrada v. Sandiganbayan, we said that the courts must assume that the legislature is ever conscious of the borders and edges of its plenary powers, and pass laws with full knowledge of the facts and for the purpose of promoting what is right and advancing the welfare of the majority. Hence, in determining whether the acts of the legislature are in accord with the Constitution any doubt must proceed with judicial restraint and act with caution and forbearance. The doctrine of separation of powers demands no less," it said.

The Bureau of Immigration under the Department of Justice implements the dual citizenship law.

Naia in a bind over liquids

By Tarra Quismundo

THE TOTAL BAN ON LIQUIDS, even meds and gels in carry-on bags should have been lifted two months ago, but why is it still in place in Philippine airports?

Apparently agencies supposed to enforce the amended regulations have yet to agree on who and of them should provide the resolution plastic bags required to implement the measure downgraded by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which allowed 100 ml or less of these substances to be carried into passenger cabins.

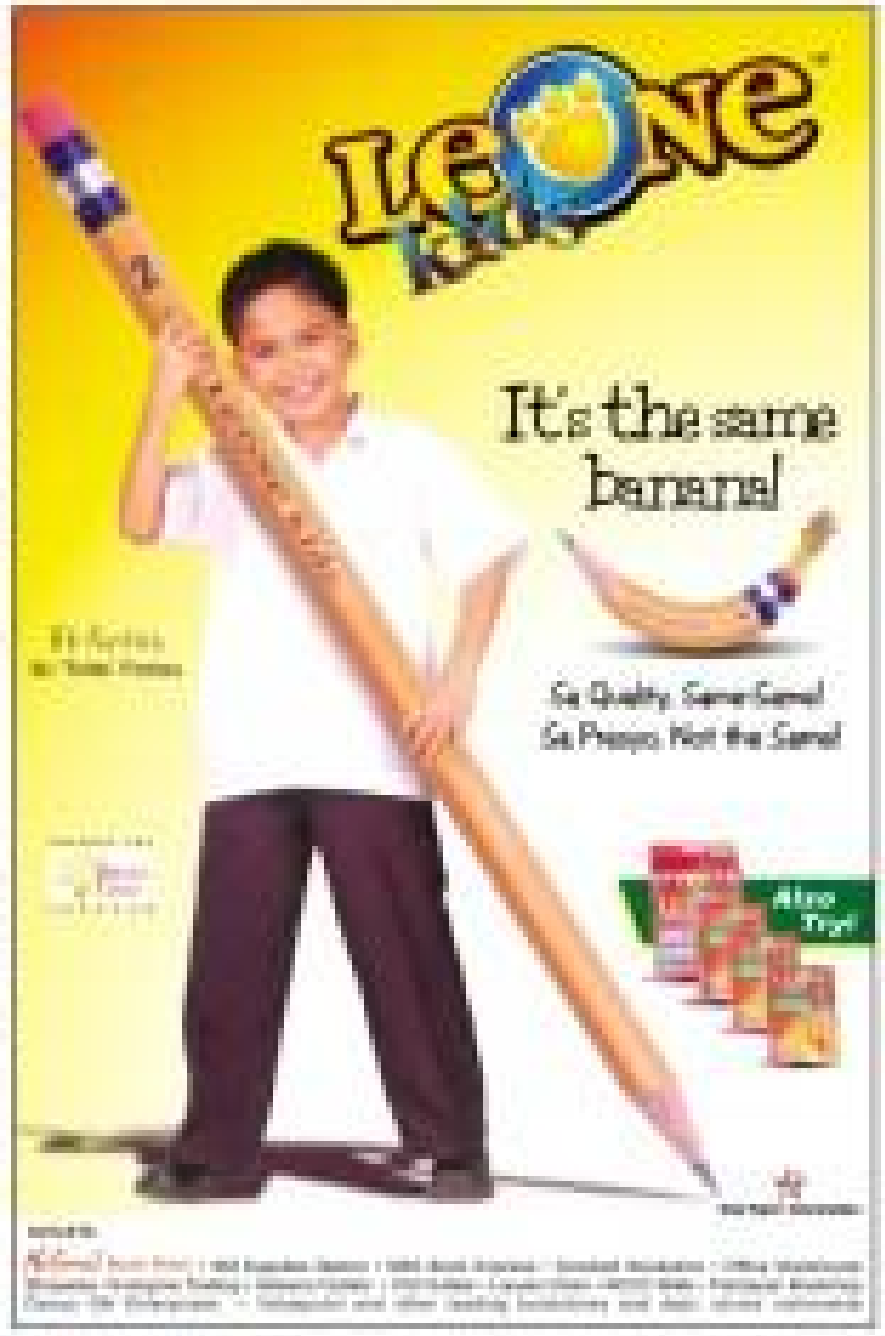
Officials of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), the Office for Transportation Security (OTS) and airline operating in Manila failed to settle the matter of providing the required 20-cm by 20-cm transparent resealable plastic bags in their meeting last week.

Based on amended regulations the ICAO disseminated for enforcement in March, airport authorities around the world can allow passengers to bring liquids, aerosols and gels (LAG) in 100 ml or less in their carry-on bags, but containers must be placed in transparent bags during pre-flight security inspection.

It is the plastic problem that has been hanging the local hosts Philippine airports to play, strictly limiting the carriage of liquids, aerosols and gels in check-in luggage. Airports in the United States, Europe, the United Kingdom, Iran and Australia have already adopted the related measures.

"It is one of the questions for the government to provide the plastic bags because it will be a big imposition on our budget. We'll rather pay [them ourselves]," said Elias Ayson, chief of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP).

He added that Elias may not do the next best thing—provide the plastic bags for a fee—as passengers must not be engaged in such commercial enterprise.



INQUIRER

OPINION

Old refrain

ALL THE WHINING AND WARNING ABOUT ELECtion surveys and exit polls have the sound of an old familiar refrain. Everyone has heard it before: surveys and exit polls are nothing more than an attempt to condition the minds of the people to accept electoral results that either the pollsters or their sponsors want. That was Fernando Poe Jr.'s complaint about the surveys after the 2004 election, when he accused the media of "trending." That was also what Jose de Venecia said when the polls showed him trailing badly Joseph Estrada in the 1998 presidential elections. Even Jaime Cardinal Sin then strongly advised Filipinos "not to be misled by exit poll results and unofficial sources" that showed Estrada winning. "While we should always protect the people's right to information," Sin said in a pastoral statement, "we must also caution the public against misinformation, which, as history has shown, has been employed by the forces of darkness to subvert the will of the people."

EDITORIAL

When all the votes had been counted, it was Sin, of course, who was shown to be misinformed not only about the outcome of the elections but also about the polls and the pollsters. The results of the preelection surveys and exit poll proved to be quite accurate, and Estrada went on to claim victory by the widest margin ever chalked up by a candidate for the highest office. And the Social Weather Stations, which did the exit poll and the surveys, went on to prove quite accurate in identifying winners in subsequent elections, including 2004 when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo won the presidency. In the same election, the SWS called correctly 11 of the 12 winners, after an exit poll. (It missed out on Alfredo Lim, who bolted into the winners' circle, nudging out former Sen. Robert Barbers, who had tied with two other candidates for 10th to 12th place in the exit poll.)

Now it's the administration's turn to cry foul and question the accuracy of surveys, the quick counts of various media organizations and in particular the exit poll done this time by Pulse Asia. The exit poll conducted on election day itself showed candidates of the Genuine Opposition taking the first six places out of the 12 Senate seats being contested, with the administration's Team Unity taking just four seats and the remaining two seats going to independent candidates. Although the media have constantly and closely prefaced their announcements with the caveat that they are giving only "partial and unofficial returns," that is not good enough for the style that Malacañang's new Presidential Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio described the media quick counts as attempts at "mind-conditioning and trending," Prospero Pichay, an administration senatorial candidate, complained that the media were playing up the results in areas where the opposition was leading, to condition the public to think the opposition would win the senatorial elections. Tarlac Rep. Jesse Robredo, Team Unity deputy spokesperson, urged the public "not to be fooled by the unofficial and marginal returns." The party's spokesman, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, predicted that administration candidates will win six or eight seats. "But wait till the Visayas and Mindanao votes start coming in," he said.

Durano was obviously referring to the "command votes" that the administration expects to be delivered by its local candidates, hundreds of whom either lured early token opposition or sin unopposed. But even that vaunted vote-delivery machine seems to have broken down in some places, like Iloilo, Leyte and Eastern Samar, where the promised 12-0 result for Team Unity seems to be vanishing.

To the opposition, Durano's statement carried an ominous ring. For it was in Mindanao where the opposition believed massive cheating happened in favor of Mr Arroyo in 2004, as the "Hello Garci" tapes tended to show. Thus, where the opposition once saw the polls and quick counts as part of an elaborate plot to camouflage the cheating in 2004, now it considers it as some kind of shield against massive fraud. With the polls and the quick counts irresistibly indicating that the Genuine Opposition would win at least six seats, opposition leaders now believe it would be very difficult for the administration to reverse the trend by cheating.

The irony in this roaring debate, however, is that by questioning the credibility of surveys and quick counts, the administration is cutting off one argument on which it has anchored its defense of the President against charges she stole the presidency: The surveys showed she would win.

Worm's-eye view

VIEWPOINT

Joan L. Mercado

MARBEL BORJA—THE LAST—AND ONLY—miss she ever hoped like the headliner was two years back. 27 primary school students first shed very much-used banana leaves uncomfortably lined with prizes.

"We're grateful that our quiet Mondav elections will keep us from the news," recalls Julian, theme of St. Michael Church. He still remembers the memory of hearing 27 small coffins pronounced to be human remains made.

Nothing unfortunately is news. On hearing of Napoleon's death in 1821, the Duke of Wellington answered: "It is not an event...it is an old story." And these have been 111 killings related to the polls so far.

This cannot do! But, Akra or nobody gets broadcast prime time and shows the field coverage. They deem like media on a flame, well, reporting only when patently unconcerned by right-wingers.

But it's not news when voting proceeded quietly within its precincts here. "There were a few verbal spats between election rivals," said Father Jaime Soriano, parish church volunteer workshops. "But that was all."

That was all too in most of the precincts scattered throughout 81 provinces. That's also the judgment by one of the most sensitive of indicators: the presidential as reflected in the stock market.

"The peso broke into the P46 level against the dollar, for the first time, in six years as financial markets cheered the peaceful conduct of Monday's mid-term national elections," news reporters Inda Dumlao and Elizabeth Sanchez Lacson, this Philippine Stock Exchange president Francis Lim added: "The surge in local asset prices is the immediate reward" for Monday's polls.

"If politics is local," Tina, news director—and Bohemian—Gene Montano reported the top of the line here. "Of course, I voted for Bulacy" registered the parish event. Lilia, as she served lunch "For Solomico, like me." The many-and-many prevailed.

Church watcher tallies show close candidate wins, in descending order, got the nod of less Regala's 1,200-plus voters: Manuel Mitra, Ralph Recto, Edgardo Angara, Miguel Zubiri, Juliet Antonio, Bibit Ordanes, Vicente Magsaysay, Loren Legarda, Benigno Aquino, Franklin Drilon and Panfilo Lacson.

The impressionistic church tally is not a sophisticated exit poll where a portion is distributed from selected people, reliable but isolated from-the-precinct data's just read. Administration-ish leaders, meanwhile, furiously studied the results of an exit poll straight pitched within traditionally opposition-ist Manila. "It does not reflect the whole country," presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio argued. But, it does a surely disputed "trending" operation?

The count here offers a women's-eye view that it is rooted in action—not just projected—ness. They spotlight Bohol's TU maidenery, headed by none Rene Montemayor. A former Manila Times correspondent, homemade cookies up an impromptu record as governor. Bohol's excellent book symbolizes her hands-on governance, which attracts grassy, limitless investors management.

Montemayor's victory margin of 30,000 over the opposition's roster of local candidates, Benigno Aquino, Francis Escudero and Panfilo Lacson squashed into the winning circle. And so did Loren Legarda, defeated decisively here by Bohol-ano Gamo in the 1998 vice presidential election.

Journalist Virginia Moreno, meanwhile, pinpointed significance in church monitoring reports. "The Manila-ites sweep that administration officials predicted is not happening in Cebu," she reported. Cebu-ano governor Gwen Garcia, Presidents Macapagal-Arroyo and her oldest daughter, gathered by Church-based quick count sources in Cebu, Iloilo, Negros Oriental and Occidental, Capiz, Antique, Leyte and Eastern Samar showed that Genuine Opposition candidates dominate the senatorial race.

"It ain't over until it's the lady stands up and starts to sing," in primaries musical country like the Philippines, lovely sings have the road ahead. Showing of television tenors and pavlovas. Some observers would prefer to sing "But it's not over until our little blessings sing."

Like what? Like worshiping former elections commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and lesser Manny Pangilinan in Bukidnon and General Santos City for their opponents' wins, the latter Ambassador, also should reflect: did voters find they were the lesser evil?

The best mayor in the Philippines, Jesse Robredo, may win in Naga despite harassment. And in Batangas, Fr Ed Panlilio, frank lumpy-appearance-not-quite-wrinkles, will or lose, his power—to swipe a think Tessie line—that rejoice in the throes of people power was an exaggeration, dubious go.

Are there those who challenged entrenched dynasties, even if they lost, like the ring hopefuls etc. "Our handpicked premier was Poli-ani it not a means of livelihood ... less a way of getting," Ang Kapatiran candidate Dr. Alexis Lacson said. "What later, even in the aftermath of the way ... mentioned a hope has come to show a possible, then we have been fully encouraged for our efforts." What lullaby they had from campaign manufacturers "will be colored over so that we can't see the real picture," and "we have no choice is to see or accept as for truth."

The cheering of supporters should not fool the "clones." Democracy is always unfinished business. Incoming officials must see its insanity as a challenge to alleviate poverty.

We cannot continue "flowing a little through a bowl of nachos." Reform cannot come willingly or by upheaval will impose it on us.

E-mail: jacolmer@edsamail.com.ph

Calm before the storm

(Conclusion)

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

GMA HAS EVEN MORE COMPELLING REASons than Marcos to stay on after her term.

First off, unlike Marcos who tried to find a law to do what he wanted and failed, and when he couldn't, GMA has never been bothered by the law. The idea that the legal force of term limits will deter her presumes that legal force is a force that she feels, or fears. That is a mistake of reasoning. The fact that she is the longest serving President of this country after 20th millenium term having been elected. President GMA Incorrect President in 2005 by the grace of God and the people, and in 2004 by the people's grace and hopefuls.

Now, will someone who has ruled for 10 years without the money of being elected give up rule just because of the money of being restricted from staying on? Or will someone whose time never began find a need to leave just because her term is up?

There's a trick to go with the canvas. The law that has forbidden Erap is the base of GMA's enemies for not wanting to lose power. There are a number of compelling facts that she can be indicted for. As the lowest thing to serving this country into the most corrupt in Asia. Drug lord every reason to complain. So can always say: "Why am I guilty? I made to only second." As the highest rung on the ladder. The specter of the other rule by the entire military regimes Marcos cannot be for on 1965. And as this, legal prosecutions may be the least of her worries. Blood debts have a way of being paid for by blood.

So, it's not just the weight of numbers she will find as her to keep power. It's the dragged figure of ineffectiveness she must face anyway, too.

From hindsight, the notion that Marcos "wouldn't dare" was really funny in that Marcos had in fact already dared again and again, long before he dared declare national law. You know, he had dared arm a second term by reasoning, as Salonga points out, the fraudulent election in Philippine history.

From hindsight, the notion that GMA "wouldn't dare" is really funny in that GMA has in fact already dared again and again even before this, in descending order, got the rest of her Regala's 1,200-plus voters: Manuel Mitra, Ralph Recto, Edgardo Angara, Miguel Zubiri, Juliet Antonio, Bibit Ordanes, Vicente Magsaysay, Loren Legarda, Benigno Aquino, Franklin Drilon and Panfilo Lacson.

The impressionistic church tally is not a sophisticated exit poll where a portion is distributed from selected people, reliable but isolated from-the-precinct data's just read. Administration-ish leaders, meanwhile, furiously studied the results of an exit poll straight pitched within traditionally opposition-ist Manila. "It does not reflect the whole country," presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio argued. But, it does a surely disputed "trending" operation?

The count here offers a women's-eye view that it is rooted in action—not just projected—ness. They spotlight Bohol's TU maidenery, headed by none Rene Montemayor. A former Manila Times correspondent, homemade cookies up an impromptu record as governor. Bohol's excellent book symbolizes her hands-on governance, which attracts grassy, limitless investors management.

Montemayor's victory margin of 30,000 over the opposition's roster of local candidates, Benigno Aquino, Francis Escudero and Panfilo Lacson squashed into the winning circle. And so did Loren Legarda, defeated decisively here by Bohol-ano Gamo in the 1998 vice presidential election.

Journalist Virginia Moreno, meanwhile, pinpointed significance in church monitoring reports. "The Manila-ites sweep that administration officials predicted is not happening in Cebu," she reported. Cebu-ano governor Gwen Garcia, Presidents Macapagal-Arroyo and her oldest daily sources, gathered by Church-based quick count sources in Cebu, Iloilo, Negros Oriental and Occidental, Capiz, Antique, Leyte and Eastern Samar showed that Genuine Opposition candidates dominate the senatorial race.

"It ain't over until it's the lady stands up and starts to sing," in primaries musical country like the Philippines, lovely sings have the road ahead. Showing of television tenors and pavlovas. Some observers would prefer to sing "But it's not over until our little blessings sing."

Like what? Like worshiping former elections commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and lesser Manny Pangilinan in Bukidnon and General Santos City for their opponents' wins, the latter Ambassador, also should reflect: did voters find they were the lesser evil?

The best mayor in the Philippines, Jesse Robredo, may win in Naga despite harassment. And in Batangas, Fr Ed Panlilio, frank lumpy-appearance-not-quite-wrinkles, will or lose, his power—to swipe a think Tessie line—that rejoice in the throes of people power was an exaggeration, dubious go.

Are there those who challenged entrenched dynasties, even if they lost, like the ring hopefuls etc. "Our handpicked premier was Poli-ani it not a means of livelihood ... less a way of getting," Ang Kapatiran candidate Dr. Alexis Lacson said. "What later, even in the aftermath of the way ... mentioned a hope has come to show a possible, then we have been fully encouraged for our efforts." What lullaby they had from campaign manufacturers "will be colored over so that we can't see the real picture," and "we have no choice is to see or accept as for truth."

The cheering of supporters should not fool the "clones." Democracy is always unfinished business. Incoming officials must see its insanity as a challenge to alleviate poverty.

We cannot continue "flowing a little through a bowl of nachos." Reform cannot come willingly or by upheaval will impose it on us.

E-mail: jacolmer@edsamail.com.ph

One thing I am sure here stews. That is, whether the one or the other, whether we go in the direction of Charter change or (herbal) martial law, we are going to see this economy trampled by the bureaucrat class fisted ruler once the heat dissipates from the campaign—the corruption of not Thousand along the way it is happening even as we speak, the calamity killings blazing like a seven-digit anniversary is. We already have martial rule even without martial law.

GMA "one-Marcosian" even Marcos in size respects. I recall the case of the things that sparked the First Quarter Storm of 1970 was Felipe Jopson, then a student, demanding from Marcos that he pay in writing that he would travel while calling after his second term. Marcos, who was a outsider for law, refused angrily and called his meeting with the SUPP on an end. I suspect that it's group of protesters made that same demand on GMA today, she would simply say: "Put that down in writing!" In applause if you want.

There is one final thing that should put the notion of "She wouldn't dare!" to rest. That is the irony of the scorpion and the frog. Everyone knows, of course, about the irony but it can do with some continued recollection and reflection.

A scorpion, the story goes, wanted to cross a river to the other side but didn't know how to swim. He spotted a frog doing the breast stroke and pleaded with the frog to take him over on his back. The frog balked at the thought and said, "But you are a scorpion, you would sting me to death."

The scorpion replied: "Are you crazy? If I bite you then I will drown in the river."

Persuaded by that argument, the frog agreed.

Midway in the river, the scorpion bit the frog. "What the hell did you do that?" The frog sputtered out as the venom took hold of him. "Now we'll both die!"

"I know," the scorpion said as he sank into the water, "but, alas, I can't help it. Alas, it's in the nature of my kind."

Well, alas, we, if it's our nature as for frogs that is our kind.

Congress headed for same setup

THE PUT IT LOOKS, THE SAME SETUP IN THE 13th Congress will remain in the 14th Congress. Lakas-NUCD-Kampi will be the majority bloc in the House of Representatives with Speaker Manny Villar of Las Piñas City as the presiding officer. Villar will be assisted by Deputy Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella of Camarines Sur, Deputy Speaker Prospero Nograles of Davao City, Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez of Davao del Norte, Deputy Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. of Pangasinan, Deputy Speaker Eduardo Ermita of Batangas, Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Zamora of San Juan, Deputy Speaker Antonio Nachura of Negros Occidental, Deputy Speaker Ruy Elias Lopez of Cebu City, Deputy Speaker Faustino Dy III of Tarlac, Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Puno of Antipolo City, Deputy Speaker Roilo Golez of Parañaque City, Deputy Speaker Jose Solis of Caloocan City, Deputy Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. of Palawan, Deputy Speaker Jose Carlos Lacson of Negros Occidental, Deputy Speaker Jose Apostol of Nueva Vizcaya, Deputy Speaker Jose Yap of Tarlac, Deputy Speaker Jesli Lapus of Bulacan, Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Aquino of Cagayan de Oro City, Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Zamora of San Juan, Deputy Speaker Antonio Nachura of Negros Occidental, Deputy Speaker Ruy Elias Lopez of Cebu City, Deputy Speaker Faustino Dy III of Tarlac, Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Puno of Antipolo City, Deputy Speaker Roilo Golez of Parañaque City, Deputy Speaker Jose Carlos Lacson of Negros Occidental, Deputy Speaker Jose Apostol of Nueva Vizcaya, Deputy Speaker Jesli Lapus of Bulacan, Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Aquino of Cagayan de Oro City.

I'm personally heartened by the victory of several personal friends:

• In Pangasinan's 6th district, Speaker Jose de Venecia knocked out challenger Dagupan Mayor Benjie Lim. 75 percent-25 percent. JDV said he would reach 80 percent. Of course, he always knows. Doubtless, a strong factor that worked for the Speaker, aside from his much-vaunted experience there, was this argument from Dagupan City. Lim, the mayor, already has a Speaker; why give up that edge?

• Undersecretary Enrique Cue Jaafar Matba-ran Perez trounced opposition lawyer Purificacion Tan in 13,000 votes, despite the support of the Iglesia ni Cristo for the latter and the DSC endorsement for the former. Perez, who announced his choice of Parliamentary, enjoyed name-tee of its members rebelled against their ministers and voted for Perez. The INC's stance apparently was a plus when it decided to flaunt the province with pictures of Aquino's boss, the late Gen. Emilio Javier in a pool of blood after he was murdered in February 1986 by Philippine Constabulary troops under Ramos' command. The photos carried the caption, "Never Again." The episode in Antique is a good lesson for the INC: it should choose whom it should back up—before it makes a public announcement and commits itself to the same province. Rep. Exequiel Javier, Emilio's brother, won over Ruben Emilio by a small margin.

• In Bataan's 2nd district, Isabela, reelectionist Mayor Amy Navarro won in a three-cornered fight against her Vice Mayor Armando Tan and former Mayor Pompe Miranda. Reports say the

Political Tidbits

Rolando Olivarez-Constantino

term despite efforts by Tan and his five brothers to go into massive vote-buying and herd people into their warehouses and resorts in the guise of guiding them into election seminars. In Limay, Mayor Jun Roman, former Liga Bayan-Bataan Rep. Anthony Miranda of Balanga, Bataan and Bulwan leader Bobbie-son Alonzo delivered a 6,9-0 vote for TG. (In the other hand, in the bruising area of the Bilateral, the family of TG's deputy spokesperson, Teofilo Alfanta, it was 11-9 in TG's favor. It's sad, though, that Isabela Governor Faustino Jr is losing to Ben Dy.

• In Bataan's 1st district, Rep. Enrique Garcia's bid for reelection against Balanga Mayor Jose Enrique Garcia III was a close one. Garcia III, who was supported by Tan and his five brothers, is the son of Governor Garcia. Garcia III's father is also the brother of Rep. Enrique Garcia. Confused? Well, it's a family feud. Garcia III's father is also the brother of Rep. Enrique Garcia. Confused? Well, it's a family feud.

• Bataan Governor Enrique Garcia's bid for reelection against Balanga Mayor Jose Enrique Garcia III was a close one. Garcia III, who was supported by Tan and his five brothers, is the son of Governor Garcia. Garcia III's father is also the brother of Rep. Enrique Garcia. Confused? Well, it's a family feud.

• In Bataan's 1st district, Rep.

Slow and late response from CSC

I WRITE IN REGARD TO THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED BAR EXAMINATIONS.

I am one of those who failed in the said examinations. I am not writing to complain about my failure, but to express my disappointment over the slow and late response of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to the requests for rechecking of examination papers.

I filed my request for rechecking on March 19, 2007, and paid the corresponding fee of P1,000 on March 20, 2007. Up to now, I have not received any response from the CSC. I have been checking the CSC website every day, but I have not seen my name in the list of those whose requests have been granted.

I am disappointed because I have been waiting for the results of my request for rechecking for almost two months now, and I have not received any response from the CSC. I am disappointed because I have been waiting for the results of my request for rechecking for almost two months now, and I have not received any response from the CSC.

Across the NATION
Editorial Editor Tony Bergonia

Fraud accounts sweep canvass sites

ACCOUNTS OF FRAUD and cheating are sweeping canvassing sites in the provinces, raising doubts over a Commission on Elections statement declaring a successful handling of the elections.

In Batangas, Pangasinan, the election officer of the town was caught by village officials on Wednesday opening two ballot boxes and inserting an envelope into one of them surreptitiously.

Former Vice Mayor Armando Dominguez, a supporter of Lipa City Rep. Mitzi Cajayon-Uy, told police that Bayanihan Action Ill, acting election officer, who was met by four barangay officials opening the ballot boxes minutes before the municipal canvassing of votes began at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

"My conscience is clear," Alcantara told the officials.

In Baguio City, the Commission on Elections directed the police on Wednesday to arrest an illegal teacher who failed to complete the count in a village of Tinoc town where ballots were marched on Tuesday night.

Nemando Wilanco, Comelec Cordillera director, said the municipal board of canvassers (MBC) in Tinoc had failed to complete the count in a village of Tinoc town where ballots were marched on Tuesday night.

A spectator run-off with a ruling less and a spike of election returns, while the board of canvassers's established votes at a position beside the Holy Spirit Academy in Tinoc.

Wilanco gave police until 12 p.m. yesterday to seek out the missing teacher before holding a new canvassing board for Tinoc.

"The police were already positioned in the municipality and I am confident they will be able to get the teacher and escape," he said.

In Abra, Senator Sapi. Villamor Bumangling, Task force Abra chief, said the town of Tinoc has political rules and has been a target of cheating and trouble because of its P4 billion annual internal revenue allotment.

In Mt. Province, armed men assaulted four ballot boxes with election returns in Bauko's counters on Tuesday, police said.

Senior Supt. Rogelio Gonzaga, Mt. Province police director, said the suspects, who were aboard three motorcycles, forced Nilda Barangan, Marlyn Bello and Rosario Sangkawad, all members of a local board of election inspectors, to hand over the ballot boxes while they were waiting for a ride in Barangay Bantugol.

In Sta. Rosa City, Laguna, three ballot boxes were switched on Monday night and 30 fake election returns were sent half by a clerk of a board of inspectors in a precinct on Tuesday.

Sta. Rosa police chief Superintendent Obispanio, however, said in a phone interview that there was no report from his men on the switching of ballot boxes.

In Mambusao, Occidental Mindoro, provincial canvassing had been went on 6 p.m. yesterday because no municipality had submitted results.

Two cases of switching of ballots involving teachers named elections in Mambusao and San Jose town, Occidental Mindoro.

In San Jose, Antique, seven precincts of Semirara Island have requested mayor-elect Reynante Lim of Caluya town of vote-buying.

The residents, in their affidavits, said they were given P500 each on May 9 by Lim's brother Efraim and asked to vote straight for candidates of Lakas-CMD and Kabalikat ng Mahapag Pilipino (Kampi).

The complainants—Cesar de la Torre, Gerusco Miguel, Rodolfo de la Torre, Nicanor Ismalla, Lito de la Torre Jr., Edmundo Miguel, Lita de la Torre and Cirilo Sebastian Jr.—are all residents of Sitio Sipa, Barangay Magpa in Semirara Island.

They alleged that Efraim went to each of their homes and left the P500 and also made them sign pieces of paper.

Reynante Lim denied the allegations. Gabriel Gavilanes, Filipino Cabrera, Franck Cruscia and Beatrice Cabinas, Inquirer North Luzon; Nina Catharina Gallasi and Madonna Z. Virola, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

A COMELEC officer takes a rest after 12 hours of counting votes in Iloilo City. For hundreds of other election workers in other parts of the country, however, rest is still a distant dream.

Bishop Cruz: De Venecia win means Cha-cha again

BAGUIO CITY—THE ELECTORAL victory of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. in the Fourth Congressional district race in Pangasinan meant a would was for President Macapagal-Arroyo and her administration's proposed Charter changes, according to Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

"De Venecia's win means the speakership is still here. His lawyers and the Charter change [agenda] will move on," said Cruz, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

De Venecia, in partial and unofficial results, won over Dagupan City Mayor Benjamin Lim, who represented the district for a term from 1998 to 2001.

At midnight, De Venecia received 53,682 votes against Lim's 18,467 votes, according to unofficial results from the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting. The figure represented results from 90 percent of 983 precincts. The city has 79,882 voters.

His other views in Pangasinan's fourth district are Mangaldan, San Jacinto, Manaoag and San Fabian.

Monitoring of results done by the camps of De Venecia and Lim showed the Speaker headed for reelection.

Cruz said with De Venecia as the district's helm, there would be "no drastic change" in the tourist and city development projects started by his predecessor, Lim.

"He will continue doing what he has been doing for years, which is to work for projects based on [his] socio-economic plan," Cruz said.

He, the bishop cited the advantage of De Venecia's victory saying having a Speaker from the district would be good as "he would get donations from other corporations for the district."

But since he is the Speaker, his concerns would go beyond the district.

De Venecia, Cruz said, has to attend to national concerns, "and I believe he will pursue Cha-cha [Charter change]."

Cruz has opposed efforts of the Arroyo administration to push for changes in the 1987 Constitution. Cha-cha was criticized as a veiled plot to give De Venecia the power through a parliamentary form of government.

In another statement, Cruz said the form of government, which Cha-cha proponents were pushing, is no longer an issue for the 2007 polls.

He said the problem lies with the people running the government, noting that the system does not work because of the people behind it.

"The best-crafted political system will not work with wrong politicians," Cruz said. Rolando Santos-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon

NPAs strike in Abra, kill 7 soldiers

BANGUED, ABRA—AT LEAST seven soldiers were killed while three others were wounded in a gun battle with communist New People's Army rebels in Sidney town on Wednesday.

The encounter angered the police to take the remains of bullet lies as in Sidney in the capital town of Bangued for the provincial canvassing.

Maximo de Reyes, a cousin of the Abra Provincial Hospital where the victims were taken, said six soldiers died in the fighting. The seventh fatality was taken to a hospital earlier here.

Police Senior Officer Ismael Sid Jr. Mark Dana Dumlao, one of the only leaders of the 41st Infantry Battalion and graduate of the Philippine Military Academy. He body was taken to the Sidney Hospital in Bangued.

Samuel Lt. Fermin Morales, police officer stationed at an Army base here, said the three wounded soldiers were taken to Metro Manila for treatment. Morales declined to identify the casualties.

Reports gathered by the Inquirer indicated that at least 40 rebels ambushed Dumlao's unit in Sidney at around 5:45 a.m.

On Sunday, soldiers engaged NPA rebels in another village of Sidney. Five rebels were reported killed in a subsequent encounter on Wednesday. Col. Ernesto Torres Jr., Army spokesperson, said the rebels rounded to attack soldiers from barangay Bacayan in Sidney.

The soldiers were "clearing the road from armed threats when the incident happened," he said.

Chief Supt. Raul Bonoan, Cordillera police director, said the bullet holes in Sidney were kept in the municipal hall and would be transferred to Bangued as soon as the area was cleared.

"We were expecting offensives from the NPA, but not all the individuals in Cordillera," Bonoan said. Frank Cimatu with reports from Bonoan Donnalie, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Poll exec who feels uncomfortable bans media

By Felipet N. Calilan
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—JOURNALISTS IN Capiz condemned on Wednesday the move of city election officer Jonalyn Antonio banning media coverage of the canvassing of votes at the Roxas City canvass hall.

The officers and members of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP-Capiz), the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) and the Capiz Independent Media Circle Inc. (CIMCI) signed the resolution condemning Antonio's decision.

Antonio said media men were strictly and distinct the proceedings of the board of canvassers. She ordered banning the media 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

She denied the formal request of two local TV programs to cover the canvassing because she said she would not feel comfortable if there were video cameras inside the hall.

Antonio also said media need not cover the canvassing because the proceedings were transparent to observers and members of political parties.

But NUJP's John Florello said media would help ensure transparency and honesty in the proceedings.

Florello said the lawyers and the watchers were not bound to inform the public of developments in the canvassing.

"Such tasks and obligations are the very essence of the existence of media," he said.

He said the right to information was enshrined in the Constitution.

Joseph Idrina, NUJP vice president and dyDW Radio Radyo anchorman, said the ban was a direct attack on press freedom and a denial of the people's right to know.

Police differ on cause of Cebu ship explosion

By Jhunnex Napallacan
and Jolens Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—POLICE HERE ARE looking at terrorism as an angle to the ship explosion that killed three people and injured 11 others on Tuesday but this early, the chief of the Philippine National Police, Director Jesus Verzosa Diokno, said it was not an act of terror.

"It's not related to any manner to terrorism," Calderon told reporters in the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame.

But Commodore Alexander Flores, Coast Guard Eastern Visayas commander, said investigators are checking for signs of sabotage in the engine room where the explosion occurred.

SFP Batman Bay 1, owned by Cebu A. Sotheng Lines, had just left port in Manduse City at 7 p.m. Tuesday when an explosion rocked its engine room.

Senior Supt. Ferdie Pesaylo, Cebu police director, said the deployment of additional police men and soldiers was justified and reports that it was an overkill were exaggerated.

Pesaylo said the number of policemen and soldiers sent to Bacoor could be increased "depending on the situation."

They alleged that Efraim went to each of their homes and left the P500 and also made them sign pieces of paper.

Reynante Lim denied the allegations. Gabriel Gavilanes, Filipino Cabrera, Franck Cruscia and Beatrice Cabinas, Inquirer North Luzon; Nina Catharina Gallasi and Madonna Z. Virola, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

Comelec seen cause of low Bacoor turnout

CAMP FIDENTE LIM, LAGUNA—The Commission on Elections was blamed for the heavy deployment of troops in the town of Bacoor, Cavite, that supporters of a congressional candidate said led to a low turnout of voters in the town.

In a statement, incumbent Mayor Jesse Castillo, who is running for a House seat, said the failure of the Comelec to prevent the camp of Jose Ramon Bautista from employing armed goons before and during the election has effectively terrorized residents and supporters.

Bautista's brother, Bebot, is running against Castillo's wife, Mercena, for the mayoral seat.

"Our highest is the hearts of the people of Bacoor on election day. Our supporters from our barangays were prevented from voting by armed goons, manhandling as members of the provincial police force," Castillo said in his statement.

He said preliminary reports indicate that only 39 percent of the total number of registered voters of Bacoor were able to vote. The town has about 230,000 registered voters. Average voter turnout in previous elections is 60 percent.

According to Castillo, his supporters sent him text messages reporting the presence of gunmen in their houses who were distributing sacrifices without restraint.

Castillo said the policemen in no empty reminder the houses of his supporters in an apparent bid to scare them from voting.

"I'm telling you, Bacoor is now militarized," he said.

THE INTIMIDATING presence of soldiers and armored personnel carriers, such as these preparing for deployment, was seen to have led to a low turnout and intimidation of voters in Bacoor, Cavite.

Senior Supt. Fidel Pesaylo, Cavite police director, said the deployment of additional police men and soldiers was justified and reports that it was an overkill were exaggerated.

Pesaylo said the number of policemen and soldiers sent to Bacoor could be increased "depending on the situation."

He admitted, though, that its total additional troops, including members of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), is reinforcement of clashes between rival mayoral candidates, especially during the canvassing of votes.

"We realized let our guard down in Bacoor because the mayor of was there is the most hotly contested in the entire province," Pesaylo told the Inquirer.

He added that we only prevent any violent altercations between supporters of the warring politicians," he said.

These candidates are vying for the mayoral post of Bacoor, a city with a 90-percent majority south of Metro Manila.

Pesaylo said aside from the members of the town police station, he also sent elements of the Police Provincial Mobile Group, the Police Regional Mobile Group and IRF personnel to ensure peace and order in the area.

Pesaylo denied the police were being used by some politicians.

"Unlike our [some who accused us of politicization], we are here to duties and prove their allegations," he said. Marlen Ronnie, Inquirer Southern Luzon

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Mission helps poor kids with deformities

By Maburca T. Viruta
Clarin, Oriental Mindoro

A HEART-PIERCING GROUP prayer by missionaries sent off 3-year-old Chadie Luha, who, for seven months, had been under the care of volunteers of a children's foundation.

Luha was brought back to his family in Gloria town, 60 kilometers south of Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro, where the Rael Foundation maintains a house for malnourished and deformed children.

The foundation was set up in 1999 after Daniel Cassin, international director for the Blanton Branch in Eastern Samar, met a child named Rael who was dying of stomach ulcers. The Blanton Branch is an organization that provides free medical and spiritual care to poor, nebulized coastal communities around the world.

Rael had a feeding cleft lip and palate, which prevented him from swallowing food.

Cassin appealed for funds for Rael's treatment from his contacts in Australia and New Zealand, his place of origin.

He said his friends realized that Rael represented the thousands of children around the world who struggle for survival. The children do not have access to aid programs and medical facilities in their own nations because of poverty, ignorance, corruption, bureaucracy and an isolated environment.

First case

Chadie is the first case of surgery into his family. Other children were still undergoing treatment.

Three missionaries—Reuben Carey Smith, executive director of the foundation, Estelle Barkley and Dr. Morris Sawaya, a dentist—took Chadie to their luxury modern van for the journey.

Smith served as a pastor in New Zealand, her home country, while Barkley was an administrator in a Christian school in Australia.

Barkley said the group's advocacy had made people in developed countries think of the big world, each having an inner desire to do good.

On the road, she sat at the back, with Chadie laughing and playing on her lap.

Barkley showered him the cares outside and reviewed animal sounds he already mastered. Then she showed him pictures of animals.

Poor family

Chadie's mother, Felicitacion or Fely, 30, and four other siblings—aged 8, 7, 3 and 1—were waiting for Chadie in their simple house that was being built on Gloria.

Smith entrusted Chadie to his mother, with a pack of reading materials on nutrition, a child's health and spring vitamins.

Chadie's father Ignacio, 36, arrived from selling lottery tickets and joined the turnover.

Melquiades Candelario, municipal social welfare and development officer, came on a motorcycle and gave the missionaries a report of the house being built, which was sponsored by the foundation as part of the sisters program.

The Luha family used to share a room with another family.

They agreed with the missionaries to put up a vegetable garden in their backyard with the seeds provided them.

"The foundation took my suggestion to build me a capital to sell fish," said Fely.

Candelario said the Luha family had been done since "with all of their children malnourished."

A letter for the rescue of the child with the logo of Mercyclub Global Foundation was signed by the parents.

After one month, Chadie was to be overseen by the missionaries.

Compassion

At the foundation's house being pictures of over a hundred children with deformities who have been successfully operated on. The cases include cleft lip, double cleft lip and palate, hydrocephalus, deformed feet and tumor.

"Many of them have been rejected by their families and communities because of their physical deformity," Smith said.

Dentists are calls where children are taken care of by dentists, as well as a playing area and a nurses' room. Downstairs are the meeting room and office.

The house staff closely monitors a newly admitted child for 24 hours.

On regular days, the missionaries are up at 6 a.m., start the day with a prayer and take care of the children with their head intake, play, sleep and other structuring activities.

The children come from hospital visits (like Chadie) or parental encounters along the road. The missionaries make sure that they are really poor to help themselves.

Lester's group came in Oriental Mindoro in 2002 on an outreach mission. They served in Mansalay once a year and returned to bring comfort to poor children.

Medicos to the pilot area, Smith said.

"We realized that nobody here is doing what we are doing," she said.

She said God gave her a vision of suffering children. "I couldn't sleep at night, I was crying over the sight of children."

Smith estimated that the province had 600 more children with cleft lip.

Within her term, the group has attended to over a hundred cases.

"It is very touching when we are mothers with helpless tears and thank very grateful to God," Smith said. The parents would give them bananas in gratitude, she said. "The thanks we so much for us as it comes from their heart," she said.

Donations

The foundation relies mainly on donations from Rael training services such as the milk powder project for malnourished children or donation boxes distributed in New Zealand.

"A cup of coffee in my country means making a difference in the life of a child here. There is so much purpose here, this is just a different way instead of saying when is there is a great joy in seeing children reach their God-given potential only if we give them attention, food and love," Barkley said.

Income was never asked for doing sue. He became part of a denied outreach programs in Mansalay.

Finding meaning in the mission, he was referred to Mercyclub, a faith-based organization, and met Smith.

Now, he finds himself fully devoted to the Rael Foundation, the service arm of Mercyclub.

The volunteers said that while they had made friends with locals, like the RMG, a local hospital, doctors and Philhealth, they had difficulties in getting their visas although in their hearts, "we are here just to help."

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

Domestic Seat Sale

P1

Sale period: May 17 to 22, 2007 or until sold out!
Travel period: July 16 to December 15, 2007
Promo is non-refundable.

Asia Seat Sale

P999

Manila to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore or Taipei

Cebu to Hong Kong or Singapore

Davao to Hong Kong or Singapore (via Cebu)

Sale period: May 12 to 18, 2007 or until sold out!
Travel period: June 18 to October 15, 2007
Promo is non-refundable.

Call (02) 70-20-888

CEBU PACIFIC

HELPING Sonia (right), executive director of Rael Foundation, turns over to Felicitacion Luha her child Chadie, after seven months of caring.

For full story, see page A16

Mangyan folk key to polls in town

THESE Mangyan men check on a copy of a voters' list and bring it to their community as they prepare for the elections.

Abubonna T. Viruta

ELEKSYON 2007

Late SPORTS

Realtors slip past Dragons; Pals up

ETA-UCCB import Jamaal Williams makes like a magician in trying to control the loose ball against Welcoat import Wayland White.

By Manong R. Custodio

NORMAN GONZALES HIT two triples inside the first two minutes of the second overtime last night and led Sta. Lucia to a tough 112-104 decision of Welcoat in the Fiesta Cup eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum.

The win could lift the Realtors past the eliminations as they pulled ahead of the overseers Dragons by two points at 5-3. Both clubs have four games left in their respective schedules.

Gonzales had open looks in his triple tries with the bank broken coming with 2:06 left in the 4-foot-4 forward but his third clank with a knee from right quarter court.

"We're aiming for fifth place (after the eliminations)," rookie coach Bayo Fernandez, who won back-to-back games for the first time in his young career, said. "If not, I'd still be happy for as long as we keep playing together."

Yancy de Ocampo hit slim points in the fourth quarter of the second game, including two triples of his own that boosted Talk 'N Text to a 114-111 nailbiter over the Air21 Express.

De Ocampo went on to finish with 25 points, the blank Cardona for the Phone Pals, who put themselves in the race in the fight for an outright semifinal slot after rising to 6-4.

The Express, meanwhile, bungled their chance to gain a share of the lead with idle Barangay Ginebra and dropped into a second place tie with Red Bull and Alaska at 5-3.

Without had possession in the waning seconds of the regulation and the first extension, But Denver Lopez made bad decisions each time as the Dragons dragged it to 2-1 and stood in danger of getting the boot.

Gonzales went on to finish with 19 points built around a 6-of-8 clip from beyond the arc while Jamaal Williams reached his way to a quiet 27 points and 17 rebounds while hard-working Hollbert Chinoles finished with 20s and 20s.

Sta. Lucia's super rookie Kelly Williams finished with just eight points, the first time in the tournament that he failed to contribute to twin digits. He shot just 1-of-7 from two-point zone but had a career-high 17 rebounds.

Wayland White scattered 31 points and had 23 boards to pace the Dragons, while also Congress finished with 26.

Without had possession with still 11.5 seconds remaining in regulation and the chance to break an 89-all tie forged by Rob Wainwright with a triple entering the final two minutes.

But instead of attacking the basket, Lopez dribbled away most of the time and then was fouled with only 4.5 seconds left on the clock.

Line scores

First game

STA. LUCIA (112)—L. Villanueva 21, Gonzales 19, Jawahir 13, C. Villarico 5, Ishmael 0, Jay 2, Cagbabe 2, Aquino 5, Cahill 2, Ogbeide 0, Ramirez 0, Mendiola 0.

WELCOAT (104)—White 31, Jurazeka 12, Flores 12, Mumbach 17, Lopez 19, Ilo Abra 2, Gomez 2, Ramirez 0, Aquino 0, Lacsi 0.

Quarters: 20-27, 49-52, 80-73, 104-89, 112-104

Second game

TALK N TEXT (114)—Cardona 25, De Ocampo 25, Asilum 17, Cruz 14, Ildefo 7, Washington 13, Abalos 0, Dillinger 0, Pinto 0.

AIR21 (111)—Jones 25, Jawahir 27, Arboleda 17, Yap 15, Caperal 10, Yeo 7, Santos 0, Omolon 0, Ilo 0, Arellano 0.

Quarters: 24-19, 53-49, 82-82, 114-111 (4OT)

Still no Chinese coaches for RP Olympians

By Jane Navarro

EVERY NEED OF THE NATIONAL ATHLETES who will undergo overseas training has been addressed except for one crucial component: foreign coaching.

The Philippine Sports Commission yesterday said it has yet to hire the Chinese coaches who will train and guide the 20 Chinese-bound athletes from six sports identified to gold-medal potentials in the Beijing Olympics next year.

PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez said they are hoping to tap available coaches from the Chinese national team to maximize the foreign exposure of the athletes from diving, swimming, gymnastics, weights, weightlifting and boxing.

"The only thing lacking are quality coaches. We want to make sure that we will have the best coach available for each sport," Ramirez told the reporters.

Except for the coaches, Ramirez said all the requirements—billeting and accommodations, plane tickets and allowances...of the athletes leaving on May 28 have been taken care of.

Pending advisories from the counterparty fund of the PSC with the President's husband Mike Arroyo still too weak to tap the support of the private sector for the country's Olympic bets.

Mr. Ramirez, who has committed his Presidential to boost the Olympic campaign, is still recovering from a high-risk, open-heart surgery.

Ramirez, who has yet to meet with Arroyo since the latter's operation, said the Olympic program would cost P950 million, including the country's actual participation.

"We will proceed with the plan but the uncertainty (how) how the PSC is very limited as the funds coming from the private foundation is needed to keep the engine running so to speak," said Ramirez.

Seniors golf blasts off in Iloilo today

THE COUNTRY'S GOLFING ELDERS BEGIN their quest for top honors in six team divisions beginning today at the 2007 Philippine Senior Amateur Open golf going at The Iloilo Golf and Country Club in Iloilo.

Iggy Chavelle cop a second straight championship in the competition Open division although he is expected to base his hands full against the likes of former national amateur champion Pomin Zamora and Bally Sioy, Bing Bunyi and lawyer Jesus Cruz.

Also tipped to contend for honors in the country's oldest golf tournament are local bets Roberto Siebingo, Lauro Sheda and Ben Bedigan.

PSTC Secretary and PSGAP president Leandro Mendoza, IGCC president Freddie Lacson and Leo Jacinto Jr., corporate secretary of Bel, of Phil. Air Senior Golfers Inc., will hit the ceremonial drive to kick off the annual event being held in conjunction with the 100th year anniversary of the Iloilo Business center.

Other guests are IGCC vice president Mark Ramos, PSGAP vice president Gaston Duala Pinero and PSGAP treasurer Jun Calimlim.

Aplus METRO
(Also Ever C. Dipasupil)

SC orders suspension of Makati judge

Woman judge faces probe for alleged protection order anomalies

By Leila B. Salaverria

CHIEF JUSTICE REYNATO PUNO has ordered the preventive suspension of a Makati family court judge while is under investigation for alleged corruption.

In line with Puno's order which was served on May 15, the Supreme Court published the effects of Judge Evelyn Arroyo Chua of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148 on remote that she must recuse herself from any case she would be assigned with.

Security guards were also stationed round-the-clock outside Chua's office as a safety measure as persons appear from entering the premises, a statement issued by the High Court said.

Recommendation

Puno's order suspending the judge was based on the recommendation of court administrator Christopher Lock who has been investigating alleged irregularities in Chua's issuance of temporary protection orders (TPO) and permanent protection orders (PPO) to litigants with cases pending in her sala.

According to the Supreme Court statement, Lock said Chua displayed gross ignorance of the law when she issued a TPO on May 7 this year ordering a respondent in a case to turn over custody of a 6-year-old child to the father who was the petitioner.

Lock noted that the next day, May 8, Chua issued an order authorizing the sheriff to secure the place where the child could be found in the she could be turned over to the petitioner. According to the court administrator, Chua's issuance of a TPO cannot be justified under the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 since "the application is a man seeking to enforce an order against a woman."

He added that Chua violated the Family Code which states that an illegitimate child should be under the parental authority of the mother, and that a child below 7 years old should not be separated from the mother, unless the court says otherwise.

According to Lock, the speed with which Chua issued the May 7 and 8 orders showed her "unusual interest" in the case.

"It must be pointed out that the order dated May 8, 2007 seems to have been tailor-made to fit the wish of the petitioner ..." he added.

There were other cases where Chua showed "unusual interest and acted hastily," Lock said. He cited one case where Chua was instructed with Judge Rolando Inocando-Legaspi of Branch 143.

Canceled

According to Lock, Chua canceled the May 9, 2007 hearing earlier scheduled by Legaspi for a bank's application for the issuance of a writ of preliminary attachment.

She then reset the hearing to an earlier date, April 20, he added. Although the later granted the bank's motion after the hearing, when was "highly suspicious in (Chua's) actuation in that (Legaspi's), in scheduling the hearing on May 9, did not see any urgency in the application," Lock said. In another case, Chua was accused of soliciting and receiving P300,000 for the speedy resolution of a case.

The Inquirer tried to reach Chua for comment, but a member of her staff said the judge was on leave. Another staffer said that no one among those was authorized to comment on the matter.

Chua was given 10 days to reply to the charges against her.

Judge Marissa Ureñeta of the Makati RTC Branch 60 has been designated acting presiding judge in Chua's sala. With Ed Vega

Binay in Palace by 2010? That's destiny, says mayor

By Dj Yap

WITH THE INITIAL RESULTS OF the May 14 polls showing him likely to win a seventh term, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay is already set his sights on the future—2010, to be exact.

Binay, also the president of the United Opposition, has dropped hints that he might join the race for the presidency.

"That's part of destiny. I'd be a hypocrite if I don't accept the fact that I want to continue in the government service," he said in an interview conducted a week before the elections.

More openly, he added: "I will aspire for a position in the executive arm."

Executive office

Asked if the trend going to Malacañang, he evaded the question: "Eh well, there are many positions in the executive branch... you can be a Cabinet member or vice president."

"We'll try to cross the bridge ..." Binay trailed off. "This is a cliche, it might sq layan (urged by the people), we'll see. But I am still strong enough physically and mentally. I can continue to be of service."

But running first to seat in either the House of Representatives or the Senate is not part of his plans.

"It's not my cup of tea—sitting down the whole day. I have no recollection of having a member of the Senate or the House who has participated in discussions.

"Views in senate, it's rather be a part of the executive department. First of all, I'm with the opposition and 2010 it is an extension of opposition year," Binay said. And what about Binay?

Binay, who is on his last term, said: "Maybe I'll be like Lee Kuan Yew in Makati. The senior citizen for the city. I'll be at their beck and call, or speak."

And so, Binay said he has no plans of fielding his wife Elenita, who has already served nine terms, or either of his two children, Makati Vice Mayor Jejomar Binay Jr. or Pasay City Councilor Jr. and Abigail Binay, who is heading the barangay affairs committee of Cluster 2, and Anna Binay, who has, so far, topped the race for councilors in District 1.

"I'm looking forward to have my own mayor (Junjun Binay Jr.) to be accepted as my successor. I hope he gets the chance. It is for anyone so we come from the same background," Binay added.

"My wife? It would be hard to convince her to run since we have property possessions. She enjoys tending her garden," he said.

As for his children, he said: "They have already carved a name for themselves in their political life, especially her son, and now, Abigail."

Concerns

In the meantime, the mayor has more urgent concerns to attend to, one of which is a suspension order against him, the implementation of which was deferred until after the elections.

On May 4, Binay was served a suspension order in connection with a complaint filed in the Office of the Ombudsman by a participant-trial who had accused him of harassing ghost employees.

But the city's public affairs chief Joey Salgado said that since Binay is a prominent survivor of the Ombudsman's axe, the suspension order would be "deemed lifted."

DID YOU KNOW

TAMBUYOG for its beautiful woman, Maxine Ray is since the role of Makoto (sailor) between Spanish and American forces in 1898, and between Allied forces and Japanese troops during the Second World War.

It is located in the municipality of Bulacan and Pampanga, in the east by Bataan, it has an area of approximately 1,100 square kilometers and an average depth of 12 meters.

Cpt. Elizabeth Jayme Kausch

QC teachers' ordeal not over with end of poll duties

By Faith S. Reyes

AT FIRST, THEY WERE DISAPpointed. Then, they were tickled. They finally ended up in tears as they told stories of their ordeal.

A day after the elections, frustrated teachers assigned to polling centers in Quezon City's second district gathered in front of the City Treasurer's office to get their allowances for serving as poll clerks.

The tension escalated on Tuesday afternoon when the teachers were again asked to come back the next day because the office was closing, causing a fiery exchange of words between the officials and the teachers.

The teachers complained that it was their second time to line up for their allowances because they failed to do so after returning the ballot boxes.

"We stayed here after the results and even though we haven't had our say, We waited for three hours before we could get our allowances," Regina Silang teacher Josefen Bautista said.

"The other teachers were stayed for six hours only to find out that their names were not written in the payroll," she added.

Electric Ballroomers of Bagbag Elementary School, on the other hand, said the bus not received from the first installment of Php 15,000 allowance.

The process was demoralizing because a number of teachers and poll clerks were not included in the payroll.

Fourth Election teacher Gerona Paula Bautista said that it would have been easier if copies of the payroll were posted so the teachers could ensure that their names were on the list before lining up.

Quezon City Treasurer Belen Montemor explained that the Commission on Elections had failed to give a complete and final list of the teachers to be included in the payroll.

She added that it was the first time that the task of distributing the allowances was given to the local government.

To prevent chaotic, the responsibility of distributing the allowances was given to the schools. She brought the school principals, "Huwag sana."

A teacher from Bagbag Elementary School was in tears as she narrated how she had travelled from Bahayan to Quezon City only to be told that she still needs to prove she really served as election poll clerk.

"He did not pay. I hope they also do theirs," she said.

Pasay City canvassing starts despite objections

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE CANVASSING OF ELECTION returns in Pasay City finally started yesterday after a poll official ruled that the proceedings should push through.

In doing so, Board of Canvassers chair Anthonette Jacinto subsidized Comelec lawyer Atty. Jaspher Warrion Gines, who is representing mayoral bet Consuelo Ong, to push past the unfavorable status of the election returns due to "inaccurate election results."

"As we said yesterday, we will make your manifestation to the minutes of the canvassing. But we will continue with the canvassing," Jacinto told Gines.

The other day, Gines moved to have the canvassing postponed because the votes for two councilmen who had been disqualified by the Commission on Elections were to be credited in favor of former Pasay Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad.

Trinidad is Ong's number one rival for the mayoral post.

On Tuesday night, Gines resorted to questioning and objecting to each ER, delaying the canvassing.

The BOC said it would rule on Gines' objections within 24 hours.

But yesterday, Soriano put his foot down on Gines' attempts to again delay the proceedings.

"We have said this yesterday. All lawyers assigned to the subcommittees of canvassers are runs their objections to the board has the canvassing will proceed," she added.

POSTER-FREE METRO

Policemen in Quezon City just appear in the cleanup drive after Monday's polls. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority began on did the same results of all campaign materials by Friday, with the help of the police and private-interest groups.

Security boosted at Pasig City canvassing

By Kristine L. Alave

PASIG POLICE AND ELECTION officials yesterday tightened security for the city's partisanship area City Hall where the canvassing of poll returns is ongoing, after allegations of electoral fraud hurled by leading mayoral candidates against each other last weekend.

The security measures in Pasig City hall is has deployed Special Weapons and Tactics teams to the City Hall grounds, where the canvassing is taking place, along with anti-riot policemen.

Two mayoral candidates Rep. Robert "Dodot" Jaworski decried the conduct of the canvassing and petitioned the Board of Canvassers to suspend the proceedings.

According to Sgnn. Joe Cruz, Jaworski's counsel, the inventory of ballot boxes from the 169 precincts is incomplete.

"If there are 1,700+ precincts, then there are must be 1,700 election returns and there must be 1,700 ballot boxes. If there is more than 1,700 or less than 1,700, then we should question the validity of the ERs, which are the source of the canvass," he said.

The BOC took note of Jaworski's complaint, but proceeded with the count.

Later, she noted alleged discrepancies in the election returns. He claimed that some of the figures in the election returns and on the envelopes did not match, and that there were votes without signatures.

Lawyer of Jaworski's rival, Councilor Robert "Bobby" Eusebio, meanwhile, said they were satisfied with the flow of the count.

Vincent Perida, one of Eusebio's lawyers, said many of the complaints Sen. Cruz could be easily explained. He added that elections officers include their empty ballots by voters who had made mistakes. With Joseph Julio Bayan audio

MetroBriefs

Chemical spill

ROSIZOTO, in Batangas Province, Pasay City constabulary officers said that a chemical spill occurred yesterday. The most serious coming from these materials, a battery in the area which supplied the residents to add water before recharging it and re-charging the batteries. Police said that the police, Barangay and town officials, and the Pasay City Fire Department said that the chemical is a concentrated mixture consisting of sulfuric acid and water. Police said that the chemical is a concentrated mixture consisting of sulfuric acid and water. Police said that the chemical is a concentrated mixture consisting of sulfuric acid and water.

Julie M. Aurelio

Suspected killer falls

A 25-YEAR-OLD person suspected of involvement in the killing of a man in Pasay City was killed by a police officer in the city's Barangay 183 on Tuesday night. The suspect was killed by a police officer in the city's Barangay 183 on Tuesday night. The suspect was killed by a police officer in the city's Barangay 183 on Tuesday night.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Upsets in the just-concluded polls

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE JUST-CONCLUDED ELECTION was the tipping point for three big personalities seeking public office. All emerged, one, some set-backed.

The winners: Jun Bermudez, Richard Gordon, Christopher de Leon, Lito Lapid and his son Mark, all movie idols, suffered humiliation at the hands of lesser-known personalities.

The only exception is actress Vilma Santos who won by a big margin over incumbent Armand Sanchez in the Batangas gubernatorial race. The reason behind her victory is her exemplary performance as Lipa City mayor.

The Filipino voters have matured politically.

Andoks Gov. Maria Grazia Padaca appears to have been rejected by her constituents. If the trend continues, Gov. Benjamin Di, whose brother, Faustino, Padaca beat in 2004, could be reinstated.

Padaca was elected based on her promise of good governance that included the elimination of "bureaucracy" the illegal numbers game, in the province.

But she could not deliver on

promise will lead to his defeat in the next bout. It sets he didn't become an inventor (earlier) to his friends and relatives.

Perception thought that the people's selection would send him to Congress. He won decisively in the election of ballot-puncher who he owes some after his election.

His song, "Para sa Iyo ang Laban na Ito," became a platinum record.

What he didn't know was that people bought his record because they found his voice hoarse, irregular, a man with the voice of a boy and a thick Visayan accent to boot having the guts to sing! It's much like a village local thinking that he can become Robbie Edward when around, he was greatly admired.

Boy knows who worked on the issue that 9700 million foreign loans to Cebu are now claiming that nothing to him. The program of work for the project was prepared and completed in the DPWH Cebu 2 Office and it was only "fed" to local government officials who were authorized to approve it.

We pity the DPWH officials in the region as well as the local officials charged with graft, they are cannon fodder. The truth is their signatures were forged. He just assumed it and made it appear as if they were the ones who signed and approved the project plan," said one of the Cebu-based engineers.

Regional officials of the DPWH charged with graft were DPWH Regional Director Rebecito Lalu, Assistant Regional Director Mathias Adobo, regional maintenance chief Porfirio Fernandez, among others.

According to the source, the 10 DPWH engineers facing graft charges are now planning to also come out, hoping that the DPWH central office has "abandoned" them.

"They ought to be pitied, after their signatures were used, they they were left at the mercy of politicians, the Ombudsman and media. And to think that they did not get a centavo at all," said the source. The same source said the Regional ace another report that the brother of a Cebuan member was the one who made off with the biggest kickback to the project that is said to be recognized by as much as 30% percent.

Harvard bares new curriculum

BOSTON—HARVARD UNIVERSITY on Tuesday approved its biggest curriculum overhaul in three decades, crafting new emphases on normative religious and cultural issues, the economy and even a rising IQ "generation effect."

The curriculum change, proposed in 2004, is the first major revision of faculty debate, is intended to counter criticism that oldest US institute of higher learning was focused unnecessarily on academic topics unconnected to students.

One of the eight new required subject areas—"historian of the world"—aims to help students overcome 120 "parochialism" by familiarizing them with the values, customs and institutions that differ from their own, Harvard said.

"This new program is the result of hundreds of hours of lively engagement by the faculty," Harvard President Drew Faust, dean of the faculty of Arts and Sciences, said in a statement.

Faculty will approve a common set that will report back next year on how the new curriculum will be introduced.

An earlier proposal would have made Harvard unique among the elite Ivy League group of four-year-old Northeastern US universities by requiring undergraduates to study religion as a distinct subject, but that was dropped in December. Reuters

Nicole Smith's diary filled with sexual references, sadness

LOS ANGELES—"DON'T READ" Personal," writes the diary's entry cover. But its author, Anna Nicole Smith, has no hold in death on the remnants of her life.

The public were can discover that she was delighted by rough sex, ecstatic over the prospect of plastic surgery for her breasts and horrified of a jealous lover's soul. She was careless with spelling, punctuation, and, too often, with her own well-being.

Complaining about her three lover's cheating, Smith writes that she'd break it off with him if he doesn't stop. Then she unwinds her mind, according to news diary excerpts released exclusively to The Associated Press.

"We discussed it and he said he wouldn't go out and get drunk no more unless it was with me," Smith wrote in the diaries, which span about a year from early 1991 to 1992.

On an evening-out a few weeks later with the same man (about their only by first name), Smith wrote that she got drunk and "asked a guy to lie it."

Her boyfriend "came unglued. There are out of his house & broke up with me so we ended by he hit me and we were another," she said.

The model and former Playboy Playmate, who was born Vickie Lynn Smith, was found dead on Feb. 8 in Hollywood, Florida, of a toxic mix of prescription drugs.

Copies of the diary pages were provided to the AP by Universal Publishing, a Corona-based auction house. The diaries were purchased from a memorabilia shop by a group of customers, who sold two of them to a German businessman for more than $100,000.

Those diaries were from 1992 and 1994 and included information about Smith's marriage to Howard Marshall II, whom Smith married in 1994 and who died the next year. AP

RARE SPECIES
Scientists discovered dozens more rare salt-shell circles, once thought to be on the brink of extinction, in Carmbalah Marsh.

Japan's plan to change Charter worries China

BEIJING—(THE ECONOMIST) concern on Tuesday at Japan's plans to rewrite its pacifist Constitution, saying it was a step to strengthening for Asian countries which suffered Japanese invasion and occupation.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, at 52 Japan's first prime minister born after World War II, has already revising the Constitution a key element in his efforts to boost Japan's role in global security affairs.

On Monday Japan's parliament passed a law outlining ways for a referendum on revising the Charter, which was drafted by US occupation authorities in February 1947.

China's Xinhua state agency saying that the pace of moves to amend the Constitution had quickened under Abe, and parliament's passing of the voting bill signaled "another important step" in Japan's path towards amending the peace Charter.

It had also accused "high current and neighbors among the people of Asia who suffered Japanese invasion and occupation" of "dubious aims."

"People have begun to doubt what her Japan will continue its path of peaceful development."

Japan occupied the former peninsula from 1910-1945 and invaded and occupied parts of China in the first half of the 20th century. It invaded Malaysia, then known as Malaya, Singapore, the Philippines and other Asian countries during World War II.

Article 9 at present renounces the right to wage war to resolve international disputes and bans the maintenance of a military.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu told a news conference on Tuesday that neighboring Asian countries had given their "utmost attention" to the plans to revise the Constitution.

"The facts demonstrate that the Japanese people were correct in choosing the path of peaceful development. We hope that Japanese will learn its this direction."

Sino-Japanese ties have been overshadowed for years by what Beijing says is Tokyo's refusal to admit to atrocities committed by Japanese soldiers in China between 1931 and 1945. Reuters

US evangelist Jerry Falwell dies at 73

WASHINGTON—US EVANGELIST Jerry Falwell, who helped unite the religious right into a powerful political force and fired controversy with his fundamentalist views, died of cardiac arrest in his office at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, and was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital after an hour of heroic relief Dr. Carl Moore, his personal physician.

The evangelist, who had a history of heart problems, had no known ill-health before he was found by colleagues, Moore said, adding he appeared to have suffered cardiac arrest.

Falwell's increasing influence in the 1970s and 1980s coincided with the rise of the US religious right, which helped propel conservative Republican candidates Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush to the White House.

Rural, all-quipping Bell the Bible referred to Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve, and portrayed a swarm of protest when he said gays, lesbians and feminists who provide abortions were guilty to blame for the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I truly believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are trying to make alternate lifestyles acceptable, all of those who have tried to secularize America, I point the finger in their face and say 'you helped this happen,'" he said.

Reactions to Falwell's death reflected the bitter divide over his views, and even the role of religion in political life in the United States.

President Bush said he was deeply saddened by Falwell's death, adding him "a man who cherished faith, family and freedom." "have lived a life of faith and called upon men and women of all backgrounds to believe in God and serve their communities," Bush said in a written statement.

Another leading evangelist, Pat Robertson said: "Jerry's courage and strength of conviction will be sadly missed in this time of increasing moral relativism."

Elliot Johnson, president of American Atheists, said Falwell was "instrumental in galvanizing millions of Americans evangelicals into an unbalanced, reclusive and undemocratic political movement."

"Gays, women, secularists, civil liberationists and other groups who did not fit into his plan to construct 'One Nation Under God' were stigmatized and attacked," she said.

Born on Aug. 11, 1933, Falwell said he was "born again" on Jan. 20, 1952, the day he converted to Christ while at Lynchburg College.

He founded the Thomas Road Baptist Church in his hometown of Lynchburg in 1956 and went on to found Liberty University in 1971—a conservative center of Christian learning.

In 1979, he started the Moral Majority organization, which became a major vehicle for getting out the vote for the Republican Party.

"We became a leading force for the cause of Ronald Reagan's reasoning in 1980 and the whole concept of family values was adopted by the Republican Party," president Bill historian Douglas Brinkley told Reuters.

His influence in politics was very real because he helped politicize evangelicals and other religious groups, the right side of the Southern Baptist Convention ... Whether you love him or hate him, he's left an indelible mark. Reuters

Spanish doctor jailed for spreading hepatitis C

MADRID—A SPANISH ANESthesiologist with hepatitis C was sentenced to 1,903 years in prison on Tuesday for infecting 275 people with the virus by injecting them with morphine from the same needles he used to draw his own fix to feed drugs.

The Valencia Provincial Court said Juan Blanco, 46, ruined the patients by first giving himself a portion of morphine then reuse for them, then cheating the out with clean solution changing the syringes.

Many resided in four hospitals in the normal city of Valencia who he infected the people from 1989-1997, the court said. Four other operations were also.

Blanco was sentenced after a trial that started in September 2005. The court he can serve no more 20 years.

The court ordered him to pay 600 euros for the suffering of the 275 people who died, in part of them swelling more than $27 mil.

HAZED
Jose has all of the victims.

It dismissed Blanco's argument that he acted because he was helpless from his drug addiction, saying "as the trial, he could have used the drugs in such a way that Tue did not cause any contagion."

Evidence clearly pointed to him as the infectious cases, it said, saying that since he left Jesus Jose hospitals no patients have come down with hepatitis C. AP

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following [illegible]

Name and address of [illegible]	Name of [illegible]	Position
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

LOURDES M. TRENDIOS
[illegible]

PORO POINT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
[illegible]

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
CONTRACT FOR SECURITY SERVICES

LGU – PILAR, CEBU
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The WORLD
Editor Lawrence B. Casiraya

Wolfowitz pleads to keep World Bank job

WOLFOWITZ AP/FILE

WASHINGTON—WORLD BANK PRESIDENT Paul Wolfowitz on Tuesday begged the lender's board to let him keep his job, promising changes in his management style in the wake of a damaging favoritism scandal.

The board of executive directors was to continue deliberations on his fate on Wednesday, after the United States reiterated its support for the embattled banker chief.

However, a White House spokesperson maintained "all options," an opening interpreted by the US media as a sign of his imminent departure.

According to a dizzying succession released by his spouse, Wolfowitz, 63, answered allegations he had put his "personal interests" above the rules, taking the very mission of the development lender.

The World Bank chief refused point-by-point everything report by a bank investigative panel published Monday concluding he had breached bank ethics rules in arranging a hike in the pay and promotion package and transfer to the State Department for his companion and fellow bank employee, Shaha Riza.

"I implore each of you to be fair in making your decision, because your decision without only effectively life, it will affect how this institution is viewed in the United States and the world," Wolfowitz told the executive directors.

The month-old scandal has come the US country bank, since European members are calling for Wolfowitz's resignation—and threatening to undermine the bank's ability to fulfill its mission to combat poverty.

"I fear that the way this started to query a headline has the potential to do greater long-term damage to the institution than the alleged underlying ethics issue that was, in point of fact, paid in real cost a year ago," he said.

The former US deputy defense secretary, in an ballot of the Iraq war, maintained to head the World Bank by President George W. Bush's administration, acknowledged he had relied too much on advisers he had brought in with him when he became bank president in June 2005.

He pledged to change his management style" to regain the confidence of the staff," whose associations, had called for his resignation after the scandal surfaced in the US media.

"If you want to have a discussion about my leadership, my management style and the policies I support, let's do it," he said. "That's not Dan's legislature. But let's get past this conflict-of-interest matter," Wolfowitz, also reaffirmed that the investigation and promotion he arranged for Riza were part of a "reasonable" agreement to resolve a "difficult set of circumstances" in the conflict of interest regarding his supervisory role in their relationship.

He asked the board to acknowledge that mistakes were made on all sides, including by the bank's ethics committee.

Shortly after Wolfowitz took the helm of the bank in June 2005, Riza, who worked as a bank communications specialist, was transferred to the State Department and assigned a generous pay increase while still on the bank's payroll.

"You still have the opportunity to avoid long-term damage by considering this matter in a fair and equitable way that encourages that we all need to do the right thing, however unpalatable we may all find it," he told the board. AFP

Bush picks general as 'war czar'

LUTE AP

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush said Tuesday he had chosen a three-star Army general as his point man for the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, ending a months-long search for a "war czar."

The move comes amid an intensifying struggle with Congress over the course of the unpopular war in Iraq, now in its fifth year, and an administration push to salvage the US mission there.

"I have chosen Lt. Gen. Douglas Lute to serve as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for Iraq and Afghanistan," Bush said in a statement.

Lute will "be the full-time manager for the implementation and execution of our strategies for Iraq and Afghanistan," Bush said, adding that the general also would manage "the interagency development policy process" for the two conflicts.

Trong Lute knows Iraq, the region, and Washington, and he'll be a great addition to the team that is working to achieve success in Iraq. He is also a doer," a White House statement quoted the US commander in Iraq, Gen. Dan Petraeus, as saying Tuesday.

Lute, who currently is serving as director of the Joint Staff, was criticized after several prominent retired generals blasted down offer or overtures to be czar the White House's "war czar."

The choice surprised colleagues at the Pentagon. Some questioned how effective a three-star general would be in managing a war effort from the White House amid four-star military commanders and cabinet secretaries.

But others pointed out that Colin Powell was a three-star general when he served as president Ronald Reagan's national security adviser in the 1980s.

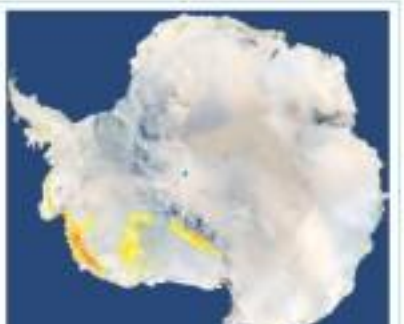
Officials said Lute will be responsible for war "policy and implementation," meaning he is expected to coach the white on presidential frustrations on behalf of the military commanders and the US ambassador in Baghdad.

It would be unfamiliar "empowered by the president, who can call up and say, 'You went ahead to provide this numbers of people with this kind of a quality, and the president wants to know where they are," US Defense Secretary Robert Gates told reporters last week.

The military has complained lately that it is carrying most of the burden of the war while other government agencies do little.

Lute will serve under National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley, who has said he wanted somebody who would focus full time on Iraq and Afghanistan, doing what he would do if he had the time to do it.

Lute, 54, has been a three-star general since September, but he has deep experience in the Middle East and was heavily involved in the planning for the current "surge" of US troops to Iraq. AFP


TWO PHASES Iran blasts—what a team of Nasa and university scientists say is clear evidence that unleaden areas of snow melted in west Antarctica (left) in January 2005 in response to warm temperatures. AP

Satellite images reveal vast snow melt in Antarctica

LOS ANGELES—RISING TEMPERATURES caused a layer of snow blanketing a California-sized region of Antarctica to melt, US space agency Nasa said in a statement on Tuesday.

A team of scientists from Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, and the University of Colorado said new satellite images had revealed a vast expanse of snow melt in 2005 where it had previously been considered unlikely.

The Nasa statement described the findings as "the most significant melt observed using satellites during the past three decades."

Konrad Steffen, director of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences at the University of Colorado, said it was the first time melting on such a scale had been detected.

"Antarctica has shown little to no warming in the recent past with the exception of the Antarctic Peninsula, but now large regions are showing the first signs of the impacts of warming," said Steffen.

"Increases in snowmelt, such as this in 2005, definitely could have an impact on large-scale melting of Antarctica's ice sheets if they were sustained over time."

The melting occurred in multiple waves, including far inland, at high latitudes and high elevations, where melt had rarely been recorded until now.

The melting was discovered using satellite instruments, a sophisticated imaging system which is able to distinguish between recently frozen ice or snow from snow that has been frozen for years.

The 2005 melt was intense enough to create an anomaly on layer where waters refreeze after the melt, the researchers said. AFP

BDO Credit Cards
Equitable CARD
Easy Transfer
Take off with a
FREE TRIP
to any domestic destination
or choose our
LOW
Balance Transfer Rate of
8.8%
APPLY NOW!
BDO Credit Cards
Call 631-8000 for details or visit any BDO Credit Cards Sales Booth at selected SM Malls, any Banco de Oro branch or BDO On-Site outlet near you.
Equitable Card Network
Call 867-7977 or 1-800-1888-3266 (Domestic Toll-Free) or visit www.equitablecard.com

US news website outsources coverage to reporters in India

LOS ANGELES—A CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER's online video hired two reporters in India to cover suburban Pasadena until he was forced to cut scheduled by handling reactions to his play that he had to postpone publication of their first stories.

James MacPherson, editor and publisher of the 2,000-old website pasadenaweekly.com, said he has not found the time he hoped to have to train one of his new staffers to cover Monday night's City Council meeting, which is shown live on the website.

"We've been prevented from doing that due to the attention that we've received," MacPherson said on Monday.

MacPherson had posted a help-wanted ad on the Indian edition of craigslist.org. "We seek a newspaper-oriented journalist in India to report on the city government and political scene of Pasadena, California, USA."

Last week he hired two Indian reporters, one a graduate of the journalism school at the University of California at Berkeley, and wanted to hear about their qualifications for the position, some as early as now. One based in the Indian financial center of Mumbai will watch the meetings, which either go past midnight, and use the time difference locally meaning in California to early afternoon in India, to write summaries to readers in the city near Los Angeles—as long as Tuesday morning's and final—of what happened.

MacPherson acknowledged it sounds strange

JAMES MACPHERSON, editor and publisher of pasadenaweekly.com, points to his home office on May 9, in Pasadena, California. AP

to have journalists in India cover news in Pasadena, a wealthy city just outside Los Angeles.

But he said it can be done from afar now that nearly the Pasadena City Council meetings can be watched over the Internet. And he said the idea makes business sense because of India's lower labor costs.

It would cost MacPherson only $20,000 annually for the pair, but had wages for an Indian journalist such have by $5 thousands, especially if such case producers the requested 15 weekly articles. AP

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Orcollo downs Feijen in Enjoypool /A24

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

■ Jazz do it, storm into West finals /A25

Syrians rout RP five by 34 points

Long Padyak Pinoy hits road today

By Manny R. Cavalis

EIGHT AFTER WINNING THE INAUGURAL Pinoy last year in Manikina, hardy Bamachina expressed his wish for a tougher challenge when he bids for a repeat.

He got his wish and then some.

Not only is this year's edition stretched by five more stages, Mamachina will also have to compete with the big guns that never appeared last year in the nation's 1,500-kilometer odyssey as wheels to flagged off today at the field of links.

Former runner Victor Espiritu, Mandaluyong runner, and time King of the Mountain Lloyd Bermante and Bernard Lanot have all come back to the fold, primed and ready to give themselves a surefire showing.

Those big names opted for a two-week last year as they concentrated on supporting the Trade Team. That made the event something for themselves, so to speak.

Read this: after some three-round as a rookie in 1906, is one of the best climbers this corner has ever produced. And with the back-breaking Baguio stages to come later in the schedule, the former KB Team member is definitely one of the riders to watch.

Mamachina opened early for 11 days, supposedly using it to iron out the kinks in his muscle-strength throughout, starting with the 3-2 kilometer prologue today just behind the cars to start dropping and leaving Bicolano pedestrian.

There will be a total of 96 riders in the ranks, a little over 20 of them riders other can eager to draw cycling immortality and the small bottom fish pot-rolled.

Frederick Bilo-ano, Edwin Ilhoa, Rene Saguiboa, Asad Quintal, Basilio Antonio and Bernard Sacro will also direct to unseat Mamachina after an unsuccessful three-year title defense.

Mamachina proved unshakeable favorite as he clung to the yellow jersey with ease last year.

Lanot is better prepared than last year, whereas he had to give up his climbers title to Mamachina in favor of his old bossy after losing to the last stage.

The latest event also starts today with the top three cyclists' individual times for each leg to be credited to their team. Coach Vidia is the defending team champion.

Perhaps fans will see the riders flagged off at Lucky Chinatown tomorrow, their respective times today to be carried over to both the individual and team events.

Mamachina's squad, Champion, looms as one of the favorites in the team event, with Ramon Dominguez is relatively quitable, they remain sung to be one of the dark horses of the event.

After today's leg, the cyclists proceed to Cabanatuan in Nueva Ecija from Quezon City tomorrow for a 190-kilometer journey.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL BOOK DEVELOPMENT BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
DepED

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Package	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	No. Bid Conference	No. Eligibility Deadline/ Opening of Bid	Bid Date
Supply and Delivery of Multi-Media Equipment (Lot 1)	3,000,000.00	March 2007 1:30 p.m.	April 2007 1:30 p.m.	January 2007 1:30 p.m.
		Venue: Conference Room A, Administration Bldg.	Venue: Conference Room A, Administration Bldg.	
		Date: Tuesday, 20 March 2007	Date: Tuesday, 27 March 2007	
		Time: 1:30 p.m.	Time: 1:30 p.m.	

Bidding documents may be purchased from the Committee Secretariat starting from 08 January 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per set. Bidders may also download the bidding documents from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) at www.philgeps.gov.ph or www.gov.ph/procurement/bac.asp. For more information, please refer to the Committee Secretariat at the address below or call telephone no. 636-1510 local 214 or telephone no. 636-1510 local 214.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 1:30 p.m. on 27 March 2007. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form and amount stipulated in the Bidding Documents.

Bid opening shall be on 27 March 2007 at 1:30 p.m. at the Conference Room A, Administration Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity.

The DepED reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect in the bidding process, and award the contract to the bidder whose offer is most advantageous to the government.

Engr. LEONCIO J. JARINA
Deputy Administrator and Chairman, BAC

Dolosa gives Cossack even chance

BENIGNO DOLOSA, TWICE A champion of the fabled Tour ng Filipinas, still feels that the Cossack Pedia team that he coaches has an even chance of repeating as team champion of the Tuesday Inquirer Pinoy that pedals off today.

Even if there are many seasoned bike returning to action this year, including former winner Victor Espiritu, who will skipper Mera, and Lloyd Bermante, the best cyclists.

"That's ignorantly why we have a great chance," Dolosa said in Filipino. "Most of the big names in the field will be riding for personal glory. Our top team. We have what we want and that is to win the (team) championship."

The Cossack riders pedaled to victory last year when no one gave them a second look because the team was made up of mixed amateurs.

"It's still true, they (Cossack) are unknown," Dolosa, who won the Tour in 1992 and 1995, added. "But first will work to our advantage, because the team event is one week different from the individual."

The Pedals Pinoy this year will have 13 stages spanning close to 1,500 kilometers, including runs to Tiger and Baguio, which will put premium on team play.

Bicolano Jose Ilhoa said last year's top rookie, Rich Valenzuela, have returned for Cossack, which counted a contingent of cyclists from organizers to keep an team intact after wins.

DOUBLE PLAY: Carlos Beltran of the New York Mets is forced out at second by Mike Fontenot of the Chicago Cubs as Aramis Ramirez (16) completes the double play during the fifth inning of their game at Shea Stadium in New York, New York, USA, 16 May 2007. EPA

No RP boxers in top 50 list

NOT EVEN EMIL OF DAMIR FLASH EDGOR ARE Pancho Villa and current Filipino ring icons Manny Pacquiao were deemed good enough for list backed in ESPN Classic list (CNN) of greatest boxers of all time.

The dispute the late Elizalde's recent choice by some local boxing writers and commentators as the best Filipino pugilist of all time and Pacquiao's recognition at the world's fists fighter for 2006 by Ring Magazine and the Boxing Writers Association of America.

To make matters worse, Mexicans Mario Antonio Barrera and Erik Morales, both of whom were humbled by Pacquiao, landed in the list compiled by former Mexican boxer who also writes for Reuters and Together magazine.

Barrera, who was stopped by Pacquiao in the 11th round in 2003 in San Antonio, Texas, ranked at No. 43 while Morales, who was halted by Pacquiao twice in his last two bouts of their trilogy, was ranked 49th.

Mike Tyson ranked the list, which, according to Martinez, was based on the criteria of in-ring performance, achievement, dominance and sustained appeal.

Sugar Ray Robinson was chosen No. 1, edging Muhammad Ali, who has been dubbed "The Greatest."

Floyd Mayweather Jr. landed 44th, one below Oscar De La Hoya, his victim in the mega-blockbuster The Ring Magazine

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 920-1966 / Website: www.nfa.gov.ph

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

In compliance with Republic Act 9184, the National Food Authority (NFA) Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) will be conducting a bidding on palay and rice on May 24, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Social Hall, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, persons or corporations not disqualified to bid, to supply the following:

I. 175,000 MT palay, 50% Milling, 50% Buskers
II. 50,000 MT palay, 50% Milling, 50% Buskers
III. 25,000 MT palay, 50% Milling, 50% Buskers

Bidders shall submit two-fortified long grain white rice with arrival period as follows:

Arrival Period	Quantity for Delivery
A. 25% Brokens Long Grain White Rice	
16-31 June 2007	25%
1-15 July 2007	25%
16-31 July 2007	25%
1-15 August 2007	25%
B. 10% Brokens Uncivilized Rice	
16-31 August 2007	100%

Bidding shall be on 5% (5%) kilograms and open to prequalified bidders eligible for project with NFA Invitation with an approximated budget. Bid requirements, as follows:

Amount	Specification	Quantity (MT)	% Milled
Php 1.5000	25% Long grain white rice	175,000	
Php 1.4500	10% Uncivilized	25,000	

Bidding documents shall be finished, signed, Class Publication, being Philippine Peso Bid Security in the form of cash, cashier's/manager's check, bid bond only as a minimum amount of 2% (2.00) MT and manifesting party shall be Bidder, Treaty with Bidding(s).

All interested suppliers are to submit their bid(s) bids for the 25% brokens and uncivilized rice for the 25% brokens long grain white rice and a bidder, 10% Brokens against acceptance 2006, with a letter of intent, duly signed by the authorized representative of the bidder, and of original documents required for payment and on the basis of samples, countersamples and countermade performed on each offer. Information shall be furnished with respect to the bidder's qualifications to be awarded for bids eligible to 25,000 MT white for Pakistan, Australia and/or U.S. origin shall be 50,000 MT each.

Documents and private suppliers are hereby advised to pay NFA either for each three (3) grain palay, shall, and shall not be for less a bid. Each record may be awarded the following separate rights:

Supplier	Palay (cavan)	Uncivilized (MT)
Government (with good track record)	175,000	25,000
Private (with good track record)	50,000	50,000
Commercial Private (with good track record)	25,000	25,000

Bidders are advised to be offered per supplier shall be 10,000 MT per specification. Offerors shall indicate the minimum volume acceptable, if any, in their bid. Bidders shall be required to submit a bid security in the form of cash, cashier's/manager's check, bid bond only as a minimum amount of 2% (2.00) MT.

However, suppliers and/or service companies with pending export-related accomplishments and 2006 are considered to have not been issued and are not allowed to participate in this bid.

Bidders shall be required to post a bid bond equivalent to 2% of the highest value offered in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in favor thereof or an irrevocable standby letter of credit issued by a reputable bank in favor of the NFA. For a bid security of irrevocable standby LC issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

Winning bidder is required to submit a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the value of the awarded volume within five (5) banking days after receipt of the notice of award in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in favor thereof or an irrevocable standby LC issued by a reputable commercial bank in the case of a foreign bank. For a bid security of a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

List of Eligibility Requirements and Instructions to Bidders may be secured starting May 17, 2007 from the BAC Secretariat at the Ground Floor, Procurement Building, Annex Building, Diliman, Quezon City, with telephone numbers 920-1977, 924-1966, 920-1966 and 924-1274.

The terms of reference and offer sheets will be available from May 17 – June 18, 2007 (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00.

The pre-bidding conference will be held on May 24, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), Social Hall, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Submission of bids will be on June 06, 2007 between 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Opening of bids will start promptly 10:00 a.m.

All bidders are required to read and comply with the instructions in the bidding.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any requirement thereof, to select bidder and also accept the bids which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

Engr. LEONCIO J. JARINA
Deputy Administrator and Chairman, BAC

Enjoypool: Orcollo subdues Feijen

FILIPINO CUE MASTER ORDER Orcollo edged European Ru-i Feijen of the Netherlands, 11-10, for semi-finals authority in the 2007 Enjoypool cup. (Formerly Billiard) Congress of America's World Championships yesterday at the Resorts World and Casino in Pasay City.

The 26-year-old Orcollo earlier beat Australian Jared Belbin, 11-5, and Dutch Marcel Chantal, 11-7.

Feijen, runner-up this year's Battle of Scandinavia, lolled to Dirk Stevens and Dodo Cay-Cleaver Wendt at Louisville, Kentucky dumped Richard Bermudez, 11-5, and Tony Grady, 11-3, before yielding to Orcollo top spot of Bingo promotions.

Pot Quezon City-based Orcollo, the 2006 World Pool-Billiard champion, will face countryman Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the next round.

Bustamante, a former world No. 1, beat Antonio Rivera, 11-7, of the Dodos Bones and compatriots Marlon Manalo, 11-6, and Ramon Sonjaya, 11-9.

Manalo earlier trounced 2005 World Junior runner-up Hendra Kurniawan of Jogjas, 11-3. Bustamante, who built from Mandaluyo, Quezon, knocked Bruce Phillipines, 11-5, of the United States, and received 9-ball champion Ralf Souquet of Germany, 11-6.

"I'm hoping for a good performance here in the SEA," said Orcollo, a native of Iloilo, Visayas did Sur.

Orcollo is aiming for a better finish this time around to fill his claims to world crown after upset thwarting in April.

Orcollo lost to retarded winner Lee Sang Gonzes in the semifinals of the 2nd BSP National Pool Championships at the Sheraton Manila.

DENNIS ORCOLLO

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court of the Philippines (SC) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites all interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

NAME OF PROJECT: Supply and delivery of Office Stationery for Officials and Employees of the Supreme Court (SC) and Presidential Security Group (PSG)

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES		ABC
Female employees	1,481	Php 2,000,000.00
Male employees	1,774	Php 2,000,000.00
TOTAL	3,255	Php 14,000,000.00

PERIOD OF DELIVERY: November to 31, 2007

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

a. PRE-BID CONFERENCE
The pre-bid conference shall be at May 18, 2007, Thursday, from 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. at the Training Center, Ground Floor, Commercial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila.

b. SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND OPENING OF BIDS
The requirements for eligibility of prospective bidders shall be submitted to the BAC Secretariat on or before May 25, 2007, Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. at the Training Center, Ground Floor, Commercial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila. Submission and opening of bids will follow immediately after the eligibility check.

Interested bidders shall be entitled to the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Bidding Documents from the date of publication of this Invitation at the BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, Commercial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila. Submission and opening of bids will follow immediately after the eligibility check.

Prospective bidders must be engaged in the business of their corresponding trade or profession as indicated in the Mayor's permit. Corporations or BAC documentary evidence of corporate duly or affidavit as to the kind of their business.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects in the bidding process, and award the contract to the bidder whose offer is most advantageous to the government and best serves the interest of the Judiciary.

May 17, 2007

(Sgd.) ANNA L. CARREON-LAS
Chairperson

SPORTSWATCH

Bugbegan cocktest at SJC today

THE BINGHAMTON CONSORTIUM ACCESS TODAY AT THE SAN JOSE Colorado with some WORLDS Bowling. The event comes on the heels of the 2006 meeting "Bluestocker" derby last week won by Alex Bacon of Wanda Bay, the Pinecrest Pro Tabernacle Bowling Center. The latter added a number of the best bowlers in the tournament from Cebu, Davao, Baguio, Bacolod, Batangas, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Batangas, Rizal and Metro Manila, spreading to both Luzon (up and down) the Bicolandia to take their shot at the coveted title. Among the notables: Ronnie Ang of Cebu, Jeffrey Ang of Davao, Jonathan Ang of Baguio, Jeffrey Ang of Cebu, Jeffrey Ang of Davao, Jeffrey

Susan back in swim of things

ULEIN MAIA
Hong Kong—Ely

IN HUDDLE

Beth Cobb

In the last minute, because of the torrent problems and there were harassment that had been raining her sexy compliments of Mandaluyong mayor Jaime Pomoll, swimmer Susan Papa wasn't sure if she could make it to the Rhema International Meet scheduled May 12 and 13 in Hong Kong.

As coach of the Mahang-hang Dolphins Aquatics, Susan was supposed to bring 21 swimmers with ages ranging from 6 to 16 for the annual international tournament.

"Should you like to come along?" came her text 20-second trailer. "But really to cover the event but to maximize and perhaps document what could be history in the making."

Susan said she was meeting with Rhea officials, along with five assistant coach Dr. Susan Ramona and Teena Reyes-Alvarez, the mother of her best student Gloriene and Nikki and daughter of lawyerman Red Reyes, to discuss course ambitious undertaking.

"I want to form a nationwide swimming league to develop swimmers from the grassroots level," Susan revealed, explaining that she was inspired by former Sen. Jinggoy Estrada's Mall's Joseph who had come to her rescue in her raging sea with Nymph.

"I want to return the kindness by helping him develop the sport."

The Marlins delegation was huge—a 60 man entourage composed of athletes and their relatives. Teresa Alvarez's group alone had 20 members—she and her husband, her three kids, her in-laws and cousin. The swimmers and their families paid for their own way.

Because the Marlins group was so big, the club had to be assigned to gallery seats at the topmost level of the venue where one has to climb numerous flights of stairs until the knees wobbled and the hungry lung cut to get there.

Nevertheless, one must admit that the fully air-conditioned, covered Hong Shin Valley swimming complex with its Olympic-size pool is definitely state-of-the-art. Even more modern than the Rizal Cuenco version the has competed in, according to Susan.

The Rhema International is a 10-year-old event founded by British army man Capt. Harry Wright, who died in 2000. On his own and the other members of the family have taken over since.

This year, 17 clubs coming from all over the world such as the United Kingdom, Australia, Taipei, Beijing, Korea and the Philippines competed in the annual awardee which includes prizes for Olympians. Two are actually participating in the ongoing meet—Hannah Wilson and Geoffrey Cheah of the Hong Kong Laurel Marine Club.

In addition to the Marlins, five other participating clubs came from the Philippines. The Isla Bride Sea Lions, the Makati Sharjacks, the Electric Rays, the Cebu Piranhas, and the Santa Fe Aquatics from Bacolod artiste four-story Danna Mae Tenio won the bronze in the 100-meter butterfly.

Wright said there used to be as many as 11 teams from the Philippines. The country's 17-year-old Jhoni Jandoja, who will compete in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, is the product of the Manna Swimmerals, Wright boasted.

Rick's oldest brother Buffy is the coach of the Makati Sharjacks while his mother Chai is manager. The Skippers won a bronze medal this year courtesy of Dhil Anderson on in the 200 freestyle for 15-and-above.

After two days of competition, the Isla Bride Sea Lions, coached by Carolina "Carolina" Sevilla, finished with the biggest haul from among the Philippine teams, followed by the Blue Marlins of Susan.

"We were 2 golds, 10 silvers 8 bronzes and broke the meet record in the 50-meter butterfly for 13-and-above," Susan enthused as James Tan Ty proudly reported. Ty is the producer-son of Manny's Pangilinan is the Isla Bride Sea Lions basketball team.

The Sea Lions' gold medalists are Eduardo King Chingkee in the 200-meter breaststroke, Ferdinand Magdiwang who broke the record by one second in the 200-meter butterfly and Geneson Mendoza who showed the way for teammates Aldous Reyes, second, and Stephanie Abad, in the 1500 freestyle for 15-and-above.

While the Blue Marlins had only 4 medals to show—6 gold, two silvers and a bronze—Susan felt very fulfilled. Last year, their highest finish was 6th place. Besides, her club had the youngest and most inexperienced swimmers.

For her, things never getting back to normal. She was winning again. Not only in swimming but in her bitter battle against Mandaluyong mayor Jaime Pomoll.

After she returned from Hong Kong late Tuesday night, she was greeted with the good news that municipal candidate Aldren Ian Pedro was leading by a huge 13,000 margin against Pomoll's wife.

Bulls close in at 3-2, will host Game 6

DETROIT, MICHIGAN—BEN GORDON scored 28 points for Chicago, which avoided elimination for the second game in a row with a 96-95 win. Joe Johnson's 30 was the top-scored Detroit in game five of their Eastern Conference semifinal.

Kirk Hinrich collected 17 points and 11 assists for Chicago, which now trails, 3-2, and will host Game 6 on Thursday.

"We have been playing our game," Gordon said. "The last two games we have been playing with more confidence because we have nothing to lose."

The Bulls avenged the victory loss-ing themselves back into the series with an offensive third quarter by outscoring the Pistons, 33-20, to take control.

Despite their stellar play they still face long odds. An NBA team has never won a best-of-seven series after trailing, 3-0. In the four major sports, just the 1942 Toronto Maple Leafs, 1975 New York Islanders and 2004 Boston Red Sox have done it.

Likewise, since 2003, the Pistons were 12-2 in potential series-clinching games—sweeping Brooklyn's current, with the Nets in 2003 and Orlando and in Game 7 of the 2005 NBA Finals against San Antonio.

Chicago beat Detroit, 102-87, on Sunday to stay alive. The followed a three-game stretch where the Pistons routed Chicago, 95-69, and 108-87 at home in the first two games, and turned a 19-point deficit into a seven-point victory in Game 3.

However, with the win, the Bulls have reversed their curse history.

Chicago had not won an elimination game on the road since May 7, 1989—a 101-100 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

That squad, led by a young Michael Jordan, still was two years away from winning its first championship. And while the current edition still might be a few more years short, it is playing like it still has a shot at hoisting the trophy.

Entering the game shooting just 37 percent in the series, Chicago was on target all night, nailing 37 percent (41-of-71) of its shots from the field, including 50-of-54 from the stripe.

In both wins in the series, the Bulls also at least 49 percent from the floor.

Gordon, who shot 13-of-16 from the field, teamed with backcourt mate Hinrich to outscore Detroit's veteran tandem of Chauncey Billups and Richard Hamilton, 41-35. AFP

Jazz do it, storm into West finals

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH—ANDREI KIRILENKO and Carlos Boozer both notched double-doubles to help the Utah Jazz advance to the Western Conference finals with a 140-87 win Tuesday over the Golden State Warriors.

Derek Fisher scored 20 points and Mehmet Okur also registered a double-double for Utah, which remained undefeated in six home games in the playoffs.

"It feels great," Fisher said. "When the season started I don't think we realized how good we could be.

"We are going to enjoy it. This is a great moment. We're going to have our work cut out for us in the next round."

The Jazz will face the winner between second-seeded Phoenix and third-seeded San Antonio in the Western Conference finals.

Kirilenko had 21 points and 13 rebounds and Boozer 21 and 14 as Utah outrebounded Golden State, 59-35, and owned a 20-9 edge on the offensive glass.

The Jazz are headed to the conference finals for the first time since consecutive trips in 1997 and 1998, which resulted in back-to-back NBA finals appearances.

"It was tough," Boozer said. "They came out very ready and game on a tough series but we were pumped up and now we are moving on. It is unbelievable. We are going crazy."

Baron Davis had 21 points, eight assists and six steals for Golden State, which became the first eighth seed in league history to win a seven-game series over the top seed, defeating the Dallas Mavericks in six games.

Dallas went on NBA-best 67 games.

Stephen Jackson, Davis's backcourt mate, added 20 points on 10-of-20 shots and Fisher added a three-pointer to help the Jazz grab a five-point lead at the 5:48 mark.

Golden State swingman Jason Richardson answered on a 17-foot jumper to close the deficit to 84-87, 1:39 remaining.

But the Warriors would get no closer as the Jazz finished the season on a 13-0 surge, making 16-of-33 shots during that stretch.

"We just didn't have enough down the stretch," said Warriors coach Don Nelson.

AFP

UTAH Jazz guard Deron Williams is forced to let go of the ball as his foils over Golden State Warriors guard Baron Davis during fourth quarter of their NBA playoff basketball game.

Stoudemire, Diaw, Horry suspended

PHOENIX—PHOENIX CENTER AMARE Stoudemire and teammate Steve Diaw were suspended Tuesday for one game for leaving the bench after Robert Horry's flagrant foul of Steve Nash in Game 4 of the Suns' National Basketball Association quarterfinal playoff series against San Antonio.

The NBA also announced Horry was suspended for two games for kicking Nash into the scorer's table with 18 seconds remaining in the Suns' 104-99 victory at San Antonio on Monday night. Phoenix's victory evened the series at 2-2.

All three players must sit out Wednesday night's Game 5 in Phoenix at what has been a rough, intense shootfest between two of the top teams in the NBA. Horry also will miss Friday night's Game 6 in San Antonio.

Horry was suspended for flagrantly fouling Nash and striking Rajo Bell about the shoulders with a forearm. NBA executive vice president Stu Jackson said in a statement. Stoudemire and Diaw were suspended for leaving "the immediate vicinity of their bench" during the altercation.

AP

C. Lhuillier seeks semis

ROMEO TERRY (Manila Bulletin)
Updated May 17, 2007
12:01 am

CHERAMA LHUILLIER, PEOE PADAUA GUIDO for at least a playoff for a semifinal slot when it tackles shedding Burger King today in the PBL Unity Cup at the Cilmaster Sports Center.

With four straight victories, the Cherry Tigers tangle with the Pampanga at 4 p.m. seeking to grab the solo lead with an 8-2 win-loss record.

Toyota Balintawak, fresh from a 69-63 upset of defending champion Barbecue Centre, collides with lowly San Miguel Magnolia out late at 2 p.m.

The Road Kings are hoping to avenge its solo first round to 5-4 with the return of guard Marvin Cone from sick bay.

The Meralcoians, who ended the four-game run of Hotshot Shake, 70-69, in their last outing, will be without injured sidepath coach Luigi Trillo, who collared to get carried away.

"We're taking it one game at a time since there are other teams still in contention," he said. "I hope the players will maintain their intensity and continue to play hard."

The Whippets actually owns an 80-69 win over the Meralcoians in the first round, but they are in the midst of a slump with four straight losses after a 4-0 start.

Ron Brown, Cebuana's main man, will have his hands full against acclaimed JR Quinahan, who will recruit to secure after a one-game suspension for roughing up Rhine Reyes.

(More Sections)

Jr. NBA Tournament tips off at Don Bosco

A CHANCE TO WATCH AN NBA GAME LIVE AND PARTICIPATION IN AN NBA SUMMER CAMP awaits the top players of this 1st Jr. NBA Tournament. Below is Kevin Gamboa, De La Salle-Zobel, San Beda and University of Santo Tomas are contesting the inaugural season of the tournament for players 14 years old or younger. "The Jr. NBA is not only about testing the pro-grams of different schools, but also seeing which individual talents have the potential to take them a higher level," said Commissioner Jennifer Justo. Players from the champion school as well as outstanding players from other schools will be invited to the Jr. NBA Training Camp set June 4 to 8. The best six campers will be selected to be the Jr. NBA Philippine All-Star team that will have a chance to watch an NBA game live in the 2007-2008 season. "We want the kids to have fun, while they compete," NBA Coach Junior Montalbo-an said.

Syrians rout RP five by 34 points

From page A23

three decided not to risk aggravating their injuries by breaching them in the second half.

The Nationals wind up their schedule against Rabeter's (6 Mabuhay at 9:45 p.m. on Wednesday (11:15 a.m. Thursday, Manila time).

If they lose, the Nationals will go up against the survivors from Group A in the quarterfinals Friday. A win puts them into a quarterfinal clash with the Group-B's No. 2 squad.

Reyes has yet to decide whether to use his hurting players.

"Everyone among my regulars, (Rhine) Reyes (a.k.a. grocery) my players and make sure we have the strongest team possible for the finals," he said.

Meetings with his staff and players from Team set for Reyes starting at 11 a.m. Wednesday.

"We'll talk among ourselves," said Reyes. "While we will do (what) to go all out to win tonight, we'll always reached our best to win some without losing 100 percent."

Asian, a defining hang finished second with a quick loop and uncanny timing to steal many shots, most of her 9 from the field and 6-for-7 from the stripe before adding out the fourth quarter.

"I'm glad about the all," said Del Tandayu, who was reported five times by the Lantana senior.

Ben-Hur Rivada scored the bi-second last 13 points off triples and second set with 25. Reagan just 10 minutes of action and he injury before still finished with 14 points.

Michael Mandulo led all scorers with 27 points to go with 10 rebounds while Jhoad custom Edmar Bachar, Marcelo Gerves and Sub playmaker Andre Chuan combined for 18 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists.

The scores:

SYRIA (96)—Asian 9 2 Del 25 Mandulo 27 Gerves 12 Bachar 6 Abdul 7 Ahmad 5 Ahmad 2 Ahmad 0 Ahmad 0 Ahmad 0

SPORTS

MONDAY, MAY 17, 2010

Lady Archers open volley '4-peat' bid

THREE-TIME CHAMPION La Salle relies in crucial its strategy ahead of the Shakey's V-League volleyball tournament, which opens today at The Arena in San Juan.

The tournament opens this year's season with a heavy three-game schedule capped by the 2 p.m. match between the Lady Archers and traditional powerhouse FEU Lady Tamaraws.

After winning three straight titles to establish a dynasty of sorts, the Lady Archers enter this season as solid favorites despite the loss of key players due to graduation.

Also on top is the 9 a.m. opener between NCAA rivals Letran and San Sebastian College and the three-game juniors match at 11 a.m.

Host point champion University of Santo Tomas and Adamson University down a bye on opening day.

The event, sponsored by Shakey's Pizza in its continuing effort to help raise the level of SB women's volleyball, will formally open at 1 p.m.

San Juan City Mayor JV Ejercito will be the guest of honor and speaker and he will welcome the organizers, sponsors and participants of the Shakey's V-League to their new home at The Arena in San Juan.

Joining Ejercito are Shakey's president and CEO Leo Prieto Jr., who will do the ceremonial serve and Shakey's general manager Ma. Dengina, who will declare the games open.

Also gracing the opener are officials of the organizing Sports Vision Management Group, Inc. (SVMGI), headed by dean Manny Hizon-Inez, chairman Ricky Palou, Rhea Navarro, Norman Black, Mike Salvacion, Chito Loyzaga, Iggy Torres, Sonny Barrios and Dindo Yanga who will do the honorific plus institutional commissioner Tony Boy Liao and Maggie Jose and Lourdes Sarmiento, marketing director and brand manager, respectively, of Shakey's Pizza.

Highlighting today's inaugurals is the league's [illegible] tribute to the late Sports Vision president Emilio "Noel" Fernandez, the twice 1984 commissioner under whose reign the tournament prospered.

With former UAAP MVP Jeanine Hernandez and many-time Best Libero awardee Ghemmylene Swanzy out of the La Salle fold, the Lady Archers will pin their hopes on the likes of Mirella Gervoso, Dil Sun, Celia Laguardia, Michelle Datoc, Judith Akosa and new recruit Amy Custodio.

But fans will be in Arenas interesting La Salle-UST rivalry in the tournament, hushed by Alkaos and Aceti and veteran net MBA 4 from Mendiola standup.

WITH two top players graduating, La Salle will anchor its championship bid on Divine Hernandez (No. 1), Hernandez, seen here as she thwarts a kill by San Sebastian's Jovi Montes (No. 5) is one of the games last season, will try to stretch the Lady Archers' dilemma to four.

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO BID

St. Joseph-QC seeks 2nd win

ARTUR GORRES STAFF

St. Joseph-QC seeks its second straight win in Shakey's Girls' Volleyball League at the Ateneo Blue Eagle gym in Katipunan.

St. Joseph and JCA Greenhills both have an 2-0 win-loss slate, but the former has a better set ratio.

Grace Christian School batches Ricky Dimaliw followed at 3:30 p.m. and Ateneo de Manila High School (AHS) at 4:30 p.m.

Powered by Janine Marciano and Cyzelle Sarmiento, who combined for 20 points, the defending champion Saints rallied 21-25, 25-9, 15-13 to subdue Ateneo in the opener.

"Our opponents are tall and they have an IVP Youth player," said Hernandez of today's game. "But we will try our best. We'll just try to adjust to their size."

TREMELY LOADED

Incredible Deals On The Nissan SENTRA 1.8 And The Nissan X-TRAIL

FREE

1st Year Comprehensive Insurance

Chattel Mortgage

3 Years LTO Registration

LOW Interest Rates

NISSAN

FULLY LOADED

Pascua, Ilustre eye funds to back Olympic dream

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HEIDI Basilio (left) and Diane Pascua harbor Olympic dreams.

ILOILO BASILIO AND Heidi Ilustre already have their set in the 30 Olympic training program.

While the two beach volleyballers are not sure about a schedule they will get funding while they prepare for next year's Beijing Games.

The Filipino-American duo is set to visit the country on May 19 to draw their norms with the Philippine Sports Commission, which earlier announced that it would shoulder the Olympic training.

Philippine Volleyball Federation secretary general Otie Camangian confirmed and they will try to get an audience with the sponsors during their stay here.

The 2009 Southeast Asian Games bronze medalists "can't be wearing long bras, according to Camangian, as they will compete in the second leg of the World Tour in Jamaica.

Pascua and Ilustre intend to earn as many points as they can in at least eight legs of the World Tour this year and in 2009 to be able to make it to Beijing.

"They want to know if they will be funded by the PSC when they compete in the World Tour legs, which will serve as their passport to the Olympics," Camangian told the Inquirer.

So far, Camangian said the PSC promised to bring the beach volleyballers to a training camp in Beijing like some 26 other athletes in the Olympic program.

PSC chair Jolly Ramirez didn't want to vow messages but has thrown support to the beach volleyball program during early interviews.

BUSINESS

Editor Raoul D. Maravilla • Assistant Editor Corvin S. Mañalac
Tell us your feedback: Inquirer biz hotline/text message to 0921 (Globe) or 0922 (Smart) E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

RP posts BOP surplus of $282M in April

Forex reserves reach all-time high of $25B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES POSTED a balance-of-payments surplus of $282 million in April, bringing the four-month total to $1.7 billion, on strong foreign exchange inflows particularly from overseas Filipino workers.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday that the surplus for April was a reversal of the $177-million deficit incurred in the same period last year, although the four-month windfall was slightly lower than the $1.84 billion from a year ago.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said: "The April surplus was achieved notwithstanding the loan prepayments of BSP and the national government."

In April, the BSP prepayments of $180 million on loans originally maturing in October 2007 and April 2008 while the national government also settled $120 million in remaining Brady bonds originally maturing in June 2008.

AP PHOTO

IN THIS ISSUE

JG Summit, Alliance Global post higher profits /B4

Bangko Sentral urges banks to lend more /B5

Despite snags, investments pouring into tourism

By Dinah L. Lucas

(Continued)

ON THE TOP OF A HILL IN BAHAGUA CITY, two hours drive from Manila, sits Hotel Poblacion, which markets itself as the only five-star hotel reached via capital.

The fact that there are so few luxury accommodations in the area is no accident, since to Bahagua for business or pleasure are still generally considered "day trips" by many visitors. Of late, however, Poblacion's staff have been working overtime to satisfy demand from foreign and local visitors.

SPECIAL REPORT

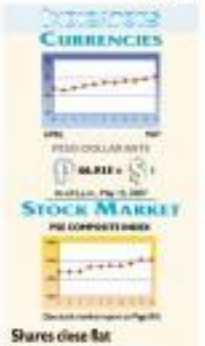
"There are days when we are at 100 percent capacity," says the hotel's chief operating officer, Jeanne Lobdig. "We have a steady stream of expatriate businessmen and tourists coming in."

The hotel's biggest clients are multinational firms which do business in the area. They book up to half of its 60 rooms in one go for weeks at a time. "Because of this demand, we are now looking at expanding our facilities," the hotel manager adds.

Near-record high occupancy

Poblacion's situation is not unique. All over the country, hotel bookings are up, according to the Department of Tourism. It's latest data shows that hotel occupancy in Metro Manila alone—for all types of hotels—hit an average of 71.4 percent in 2006. The rate is even high- er in the de luxe hotel segment, with an occupancy rate of 73.6 percent. Overall, the pro- jected occupancy rates are at levels unseen since the late 1990s, and significantly better

SEE PAGE B2



Shares close flat

SHARE PRICES IN BENCHMARK YESTERDAY as investors chose to take profits after the market hit an all-time high, dealers said.

They said the Philippine bourse has finally caught up with its regional peers, all of which have been recording records as they returned to highs last managed before the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

The composite index added just 0.43 points to 2,808.20, its best closing level since Feb. 4 1997, when it settled at 2,808.66.

During the session, the index was at one point up more than one percent for an intra- day record of 3,491.73 points.

The broader all-share index was up 4.94 points or 0.3 percent at 2,118.19.

Losers just had gainers 104 to 68, with 53 stocks unchanged.

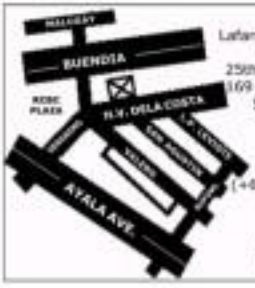
Turnover was 2.1 billion shares worth P6 billion.

"The market is still riding the all-time high but blood is also starting to consolidate and build a stronger base," said Gemor Tan, an investment Regional Capital Development Corp.

SEE PAGE B4

LAFARGE CEMENT SERVICES (PHILS.), INC.
moves to a New Address

We wish to inform all our friends and partners that by May 21, 2007 we will be in our new office.



Lafarge Cement Services
(Phils.), Inc.
25th Flr. Salcedo Tower
169 H.V. dela Costa St.
Salcedo Village
Makati City

Trunkline
(+632) 819 5506 to 15

Fax
(+632) 815 2668

Please send all correspondence of the following Lafarge Associated Companies to the above address:

Republic Cement Corp.
Fortune Cement Corp.
FR Cement Corp.
Iligan Cement Corp.
Mindanao Portland Cement Corp.
Limay Grinding Mill Corp.

Despite snags . . .

From page B1

than the average 58-percent occupancy rate recorded in 1998 to 2005.

"The hotel business is doing very well nowadays," Tourism Secretary Joe Durano said in an interview. "In fact, it's doing so well that many of them are already expanding."

The tourism chief hopes to help the industry attract as many as 3.1 million tourists by the end of 2007, but he knows that existing facilities are already groaning under the weight of present tourist arrivals.

"The industry is in a virtuous cycle," he says, referring to available first-class accommodations around the country. "We expect to see 3,000 new 'applicable' rooms this year to add to the 5,000 already present."

Accommodation shortage

If the country is to achieve its target of five million foreign visitors by 2010, however, many more rooms and hotels would have to be built.

"We need thousands of new rooms every year because expansion programs have always to three-year gestation period," Durano points out.

Local businessmen seem to be listening.

Recently, Ayala Land Inc. unveiled a plan to build three luxury hotels in the Makati central business district, partnering with Saudi-owned Fairmont Hotels and Shangri-La Hotel Group.

The project will cost at least $7.4 billion and is the biggest single investment in the industry in recent years, according to company officials.

Not to be outdone, SM Investments Corp. (SMIC)—long associated with developing shopping malls—has also jumped into the tourism bandwagon with Two Tent, which made P6.2 billion for its Bataan Coast properties in Bataan province. Company officials say that once completed, the project will be a tourist enclave from the rest of Manila.

"We are targeting mainly the high-end domestic market, OFWs [overseas Filipino workers] and also foreign tourists," says SMIC executive vice president Joselito Lacas. "We already have a good market base with some of our customers in Tagaytay Highlands, and the Forest Ingress of SM Development."

Other companies following suit, with even holding firm d. Fortune Corp. unveiling its plans to invest $20 million in the tourism business to add to its existing portfolio of hotel-resort operations.

New investments

The head of tourism has also gotten into the act, recently granting tax perks to several foreign hotel developers planning to set up operations in the country.

The potential benefits are tremendous. Durano points out that foreign tourists spend an average of $60 for each day they stay in the country. That may be at least a week. Last year, the country earned $2.7 billion in direct receipts alone from foreign tourists.

The tourism chief says that this amount excludes the multiplier effect on the economy, given that each tourist that flies into the country indirectly helps create one job in the service sector.

This is even compounded by receipts from domestic tourists and OFWs and "Balik Turista" who also contribute to the strength of the industry.

So what's holding the industry back?

Durano's answer echoes the sentiments of most players in the tourism business.

"It really depends on our capacity," he says, explaining that the transportation and accommodation infrastructure must be in place before the country can profit more from the ongoing global travel boom.

Durano declines, however, to put the blame squarely on the local airline industry, which has been accused of running routine with on preferential treatment.

"We need more airlines to come to operate," he says, explaining that it is pointless to build more rooms when there are not enough flights to fly in potential hotel occupants, while it is also pointless to fly in tourists unless hotel rooms are still lacking. "It has to be collaborative," he says.

The debate over access, notwithstanding, Durano says it is clear that the industry holds significant potential upside for the country, and the business sector.

As the tourism chief concludes: "This is our next frontier industry and it has already started."

RP posts BOP surplus . . .

From page B1

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said the country's balance of payments position (BOP) posted a surplus of $1.1 billion in the first quarter of 2007, reversing the $1.1-billion deficit in the same period last year.

The BSP said the BOP surplus was the result of the net inflow in the capital and financial account, which more than offset the net outflow in the current account

Clark airport aims for 5M travelers a year as tourism industry booms

By Rica T. Didondra

WITH LOCAL TOURISTS MAKING SIX TRAVEL hours, officials of the Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) said the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) was ripe for capacity expansion to cater for millions more passengers a year from the present one million travellers.

As of March this year, more than 18 flights a week going to 10 Asian cities arrived through the DMIA. By year's end, this is expected to expand to 75 weekly flights to 12 cities.

From 2006 to 2010, DMIA also realized 404 percent growth in international passenger traffic. From 6,197 passengers a month in 2006, it rose to more than 60,000 passengers monthly in 2006.

Elenito S. Sagsil, CIAC manager for marketing and customer service, said that until recently, only one of four air travellers going through the DMIA were local tourists. "With the boom in budget air travel last year, however, every other passenger at the DMIA was either a resident or worker in the duty free and tourist lanes.

He said this has resulted in a budget air travel boom, which he said did not necessarily mean losses for existing airlines such as flag carrier Philippine Airlines.

"A few passengers of (existing) airlines may have opted for budget travel when it became available, but those with the ability to pay for a more luxurious service would not really go for budget. It can be said that the passenger pie is just getting bigger, with a new band market being tapped, and the incumbents' share are not necessarily getting smaller," he explained.

CIAC president and CEO Victor L. Lazatin said, however, that the DMIA was also getting ready to serve airlines that offer more luxurious services. He said the entry of Mideast-to-Clark Gourmet as a provider of in-flight catering services would help the DMIA serve this sector.

"It is all coming together, with more airlines and air forwarding companies coming in, accommodation south at Clark resorts and employment growing with Clark locators such as UPS (United Parcel Service) and semiconductor maker Texas Instruments. Clark and surrounding areas will see airport-driven development. That is DMIA's role," he said.

Fixed rates and guaranteed earnings for your ₱

Deposit Amount	Interest Rates, %	
In Pesos	30 to 360 days	1 Year
100,000 - 499,999	2.75	3.00
500,000 - 999,999	3.25	3.50
1.0MM - 4.99MM	4.00	4.25
5.0MM - 9.99MM	4.25	4.50
10.0MM and up	4.50	4.50

* Rates are annual rates (per calendar day basis) and subject to change without notice.

Open an account now at any PSBank branch!

PSBank Peso Time Deposit

Gov't efforts seen to slow drug sector's growth

By Bernie W. Dominguez

THE LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL AND healthcare market is expected to grow by only half over the next five years to $5.35 billion or some P261 billion due to government efforts to promote low cost drugs.

According to a study made by Dublin-based business research firm Research and Markets titled "Philippines Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Report Q1 2007," the sector had posted "steady but unspectacular growth in recent years."

In 2006, Research and Markets said the local market was valued at an estimated $3.34 billion or some P160 billion.

"While an improving economic performance will help the drug industry continue to develop, the value of the pharmaceuticals market would suffer from its ongoing generic initiatives designed to encourage the use of low-cost medicines," the firm said in a statement.

Research and Market cited the encouragement of parallel imports from India and Pakistan, the facilitation of generic-name drugs in the market and the pending introduction of compulsory licensing for public health emergencies.

Compulsory licensing means patent holders will give up their monopoly in making and selling their medicines when public interest demands the immediate provision of adequate supply, such as during an epidemic.

"In terms of market segmentation, generics remain underrepresented at only around 3 percent of the trend by value due to widespread counterfeit activity and the lack of compliance with and enforcement of generic regulations," the company said.

"While branded medicines remain prohibitively by the segment of the population able to afford them, the government is making a concerted effort to bring prices down, with measures viewed as inevitable by almost all market watchers," it added.

The study cited the efforts of state-owned Philippine International Trading Corp. to expand its program to bring low-priced medicines from abroad, with Pakistan having been identified as an added source of imports.

Earlier this month, PTC filed a petition with the Intellectual Property Office for the cancellation of Pfizer's patent for Norvasc, an anti-hypertensive drug.

PTC said that Norvasc sells locally at about P40 a tablet while it could be bought from Pakistan at P16 each.

"The adjusted Business Environment Ranking for Asia reveal that the Philippines is in 13th place, ahead only of Vietnam and Pakistan," Research and Markets said.

"The country has received this score primarily due to its poor regulatory reform, which does not provide effective patent 'linkage' and fails to take adequate action against counterfeit drugs," it added.

The study added that the country was "rife with corruption, which will continue to hamper efforts to achieve better business operating environment in the Philippines."

The study noted that multinational drug makers, which dominate the market, have heavily opposed government cost-containment measures, claiming that it discourages investment by innovator companies.

"The foreign drug makers are also critical of widely acknowledged government pharmacies of the indigenous industry amid considerable funding of regulatory agencies," the firm said.

"Nevertheless, the government relies on domestic producers and products to support the local basic opioid, and it therefore unlikely to introduce regulation that threatens the stability of the supply line," it said.

Still, the study showed that harmonization among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and gradual alignment with international norms should improve market conditions in the longer term.

Take drugs are a severe problem, with much of the large low-income population resigned to buy illegal products due to relatively high-branded medicine prices," the company said.

Vocal-ize your business!

Instant worldwide connection starts at ₱900 per month.

Expand your business and have the power to call anywhere in the world. Plus... have business presence in 400 cities in 39 countries worldwide. Have a virtual office in Singapore, Tokyo, and New York, or in any major city you choose. With our Vocal World Numbers™, your customers, suppliers, and even your relatives abroad can call your Singapore, Tokyo and New York "local numbers," while you take their calls right here in the Philippines – at no additional cost!

You can also make and receive unlimited Vocal to Vocal calls anytime, anywhere!

Costs less. Portable. Simple. Far reaching.

Think global.

Hotline: 918-5200

Cebu: 032-2542542 or 032-4158003

or call toll-free hotlines:

1-800-1-888-1866 (PLDT)

1-800-3-888-8888 (GLOBE)

www.callvocal.com

VOCAL PLANS	VOCAL EXPRESS	VOCAL ADVANCE	VOCAL BUSINESS
Monthly Service Fee	P 900	P 2,000	P 5,000
Free Minutes	120 minutes	300 minutes	1,000 minutes
Vocal World Number	-	Inclusive of one Vocal World Number (US • Canada • Taiwan • Germany • Italy • UK)	
Free Features	Call Waiting • Call Forwarding • Speed Dialing • Caller ID • Call Transfer • Call Hold • 3-Party Conference • Do Not Disturb		
One-time Fee	P 1,000 (Installation & Activation)	P 2,000 (Installation & Activation)	P 2,000 (Installation & Activation)
Free Phone	(Unlimited Endpoints)	(Unlimited Endpoints)	(Unlimited Endpoints)

Your business just became worldwide as quickly as you can answer hello!™

VOC@L Make Over Just VoIP

Pacific Internet

Pacific Internet Singapore • Hong Kong • Philippines • Australia • Thailand • India • Malaysia

JG Summit, Alliance Global post higher profits

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

TWO HOLDING FIRMS—ALLIANCE Global Group Inc. of real estate tycoon Andrew Tan and JG Summit Holdings of tuipon John Gokongwei Jr.—reported robust earnings in the first quarter, driven by investments in real estate, food and beverage and a tax turnaround in tire operations.

However, Benpres Holdings Corp. of the Lopezes reported a decline in net income by 64 percent to P73.1 million in the first quarter from P203.05 million in the same period last year, largely due to the 67 percent fall in equity in net earnings of subsidiaries to P652 million from P1.991 billion in the same quarter last year.

Alliance Global said in its report to the Philippine Stock Exchange that its consolidated net profit soared 440 percent to P988 million in the first three months.

AGI's total consolidated revenues climbed 21.6 percent to P5.4 billion in the first quarter from P3.102 billion a year ago.

Megaworld Corp., a 46-percent owned company of AGI, recently announced that its net income more by 36 percent to P794 million in the first quarter compared to the same period last year. The condominium and office developer's total revenues jumped 45 percent to P2.19 billion from P1.99 billion in the first half of its P1.88 billion in real estate sales in the first quarter, which went up 34 percent from a year ago.

AGI also holds 49 percent in the second biggest fast food business in the Philippines through its investment in Golden Arches Development Corp. (GADC), the master franchise holder of McDonald's in the country.

GADC's net income in the first quarter surged 20% percent to P64 million. MGI said GADC's successful marketing initiatives, particularly the coupon promotions, and store openings this quarter paid off. GADC is planning to go public in the second half of the year.

AGI's 49.9-percent subsidiary, Interport Distribution Inc. (IDI), also enjoyed a net income of P240 million in the first quarter of 2007. Its comparative figures were unavailable.

JG Summit, on the other hand, posted consolidated net income of P1.75 billion in the first quarter, up 150 percent from P697 million in the same period last year. The improvement in recurring net income was due to the record growth of Cebu Air Inc., the airline carrying the Cebu Pacific brand. Net earnings of Cebu Pacific surged a turnaround to P559.6 million in the first quarter from a net loss of P92.9 million from the same period last year.

The combined earnings from the net income contributions of branded snacks food company Universal Robina Corp. and property developer Robinsons Land Corp. also supported the quarter's robust performance. Smart Communications, the country's biggest telecommunications and infotechnology, however, continued to lag as revenues declined 4 percent and 66 percent, respectively.

The Lopezes' Benpres reported consolidated consolidated revenues of P6.16 billion in the first three months of 2007, 6 percent higher than the P5.81 billion in the same period last year. Net income attributable to the equity holders of the parent decreased by 64 percent to P72 million from P2.06 billion primarily due to the 67 percent fall in equity in net earnings of subsidiaries to P652 million from P1.99 billion.

The 2006 figures included gains booked by affiliate First Philippine Holdings Corp. from the initial public offering of First Gen Corp. (First Gen) in February last year.

Without these one time gains recorded by FPHC, Benpres' net income attributable to parent equity holders in the first quarter of 2006 would have been P652 million.

Shares close flat

Ben Rodrigo, an analyst with Unicapital Securities, said caution may be the watchword in coming sessions with all eyes on the results of Monday's mid-term polls.

Vote counting in the polls, for half of the 24-seat Senate along with all of the 275 member House of Representatives and more than 13,000 local government posts, has just begun and is expected to take several 10 days.

AFP

Would you like to be an AIRBUS A320 Pilot?

Clark Aviation located at Clark Airbase. We are accepting cadets with no prior aviation experience for the new MPL Aviation Course In one year you can be a fully qualified A320 Co-Pilot.

APPLY TODAY

Assessment on going

+63 917 808 1155

www.alphagroupclark.aero

joselbon@alphagroupclark.aero

CAE A320 Level D Simulator

CLARK AVIATION

World Class Training for International Aviation Personnel

Experience our brand new CAE A320 Level D Simulator for both type rating and recurrent training

FLI profit jumps 64% to P252M

FILINVEST DEVELOPment Filinvest Land Inc. (FLI) said its net income in the first quarter jumped 64 percent to P252.26 million from P154.66 million last year.

In a disclosure, FLI president Joseph Yap said total revenues reached P1.02 billion, an increase of 140 percent, that fueled by higher real estate sales, rental income and equity in net earnings of FLI affiliate Filinvest Alabang Inc.

Real estate sales rose 46 percent to P816.9 million. Rental income surged to P226.7 million in the first quarter from P73 million in the same period in 2006 following its acquisition of Headlogger Cybercenter, Festival Supermall, and PBCom Tower in September last year.

BLI, 20-percent ownership stake in BG generated equity earnings of P200.9 million compared to P7.7 million in the first quarter of 2006. BG realized a one-time extraordinary gain as it booked the successful secondary offering of shares.

As of March 31, its total consolidated assets of FLI stood at P42.04 billion while stockholders' equity amounted to P20 billion. Last February, FLI raised P5.9 billion from the sale of shares to finance its development projects for the year. FLI has budgeted P8 billion in capital expenditures for 2007 of which P4.7 billion is earmarked for its residential developments and P1.3 billion for office projects.

The company said it remained optimistic sales in growth as it embarks on an aggressive marketing campaign for 14 new projects scheduled for launching till year-end to meet client needs.

FLI is broadening its market reach by building townships, medium-rise buildings and residential resort communities. Affiliate Bonifacio Land Corp. is developing the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City, while Filinvest Alabang Inc. is developing the Filinvest City in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Philippine National Bank

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 24, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pedro Gil corner Dr. M. Adriatico, Manila.

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice of Meeting and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 25, 2006
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2006
5. Approval of the 2006 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation to withhold the stockholders' pre-emptive right to subscribe to any new or additional shares of the Bank
7. Ratification of All Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditor
10. Other Matters
11. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 24, 2006 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 30, 2007 will be entitled to notice of, and vote at, that meeting. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 04, 2007. Any persons so designated will be validated by the Bank's Corporate Secretary on May 08, 2007 9:00 a.m. at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Metro Bank Center 6764 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, February 15, 2007

ROMEO L. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

Banco de Oro, EPCIB post sharp rise in Q1 profits

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANCO DE ORO Universal Bank and Equitable PCI Bank, whose merger will soon create the country's second largest bank, registered sharp increases in net profits in the first quarter of the year.

BDO posted a consolidated net income of P838 million for the first quarter, up by 38 percent over year-ago level, while EPCIBank reported a profit of P997 million or 32 percent higher than a year ago.

"We're very pleased that, amid the hectic integration planning activities, both banks are posting their results and performing beyond expectations," said BDO president and EPCIB officer in-charge Nestor V. Tan, "that this is just the beginning."

He attributed the higher earnings to the steady contribution of net interest income, a healthy growth in non-interest income, and consumer and corporate loans.

Tan noted that BDO had pursued vigorous expansion in its investment and loan portfolios, thus successfully freeing itself for the lower interest rate environment.

BDO posted year interest income of P5.22 billion, or a 27 percent year on year increase. Its other income also improved by 68 percent, reaching P1.489 billion for the quarter.

Trading and foreign exchange gains grew by 30 percent to P914 million, while service charges and fees more than doubled to P497 million on account of higher business volumes.

He said the combination of an enhanced distribution network and aggressive marketing efforts triggered BDO's funding win and increased the deposit base by 33 percent year-on-year to P220.09 billion, while also fueling the growth in earning assets.

Bangko Sentral urges banks to lend more

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS said bank lending should grow by double-digit levels as the economy could maximize the growth potential of the country's rising savings rate.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the 27.30 percent increase in savings rate—the ratio between aggregate savings and the country's gross domestic product—should be matched by a much higher growth in lending.

The BSP earlier reported that bank lending grew in March by only 8.9 percent to P1.06 trillion from year-ago level. This, according to Tetangco, was not consistent with the increase in savings rate.

The BSP said the rise in bank lending in the first three months was due to higher loans provided to financial institutions; real estate firms; services firms; transportation, communication and storage services; agriculture sector; and wholesale and retail trade services.

He said bank lending growth should reach double-digit levels to maximize the opportunities arising from a rising savings rate.

"An increase in savings will not translate to higher economic growth if the money lodged in banks will not be lent out to benefit more businesses," he said.

Tetangco said the BSP was urging banks to be more aggressive in lending by providing more credit to the small and medium enterprises rather than concentrating their resources mainly on large corporate clients.

But the BSP chief said the relatively weak bank lending could not solely be attributed to unwillingness of some banks to increase lending, but also because demand was not as brisk as it should be given the low interest rate environment and the increase in savings.

"If the economy is growing and if demand for loans is increasing, then banks will respond to that," Tetangco said.

He explained that the availability of other sources of financing, such as the issuance of corporate bonds, could partly explain why bank lending was not growing as it should be.

But Tetangco added that banks could be encouraged to be more aggressive to lend if Congress would pass a pending bill seeking the creation of a credit information bureau.

Tetangco said the BSP was hoping Congress could pass the bill upon the resumption of regular session.

The proposed credit information bureau will provide a database on the credit backgrounds of bank clients. This facility is intended to help banks to identify high- and low-credit risk borrowers that could guide them in making decisions on to whom to lend.

"It is not just the monetary authority that could encourage banks to lend more," Tetangco said.

Loan growth should match rise in savings rate–Tetangco

HealthLab Inc.
Accurate results, every time, on time.
We bring the Lab to you!
Convenient Home and Office service available

Laboratory Services
Complete Blood Exams
Drug and HIV Testing
Clinic Microscopy
Caring for You since 1997
www.healthlab.com.ph

Malampaya oil issues remain unresolved

AFTER SHOWER OF OBSCENITIES, the bidding for the contract to develop the Camago-Malampaya oil leg is still not expected to take place any time soon, as a number of issues concerning the gas reserves remain unresolved.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said PNOC Exploration Corp. continued to hold discussions with other Malampaya consortium members—Shell Philippines Exploration BV and Chevron Malampaya LLC—on how the remaining issues could be sorted out.

"There are still issues being thrashed out. They're still [in some cases...indemnity, ...technical] requirements," he said.

All these issues would have to be resolved before the contract is bid out, to ensure that there would be no conflict between the Malampaya consortium members and the future developers of the oil fields.

Also, during the development of the oil leg, the gas reserves would have to be preserved, as it served as the first source for three of Luzon's main power sources: the 1,200-megawatt (MW) Ilijan, the 1,000-MW San Lorenzo gas-fired power plants.

Lotilla said PNOC-EC was still evaluating the terms and conditions under which the contract would be bid out.

One of the things that PNOC-EC was looking at, he said, was the possibility of holding a pre-qualification process for prospective bidders.

The minimum technical and financial terms and conditions would have to be set, to ensure that only qualified entities would have a right to bid for the contract, he said.

These criteria would also prevent the government from "unnecessarily narrowing down its choices," he added.

Besides fixing that PNOC-EC was overlooking, he said, was whether or not the oil was still available for the taking.

"Assessments are being conducted to ensure that the oil will still be available. [PNOC-EC] is quite confident about that. PNOC-EC is seriously studying the prospects of the oil leg, as there have also been developments in technology for recovering the oil," he said. —Abigail C. Ho

Purchasing a server for your office requirements is now financially feasible. Starting at P46,500, you can now easily afford the reliability and stability proven by HP servers. Powered by Second-Generation AMD Opteron™ processor and embedded SATA RAID 0,1,5, the HP ProLiant ML115 Server delivers guaranteed performance and availability for your growing business requirements. Delivering constant uptime, with minimal deployment and less maintenance hassle at a fraction of the cost. Provid'ng greater efficiency that lets you respond to your customers needs faster.
Why run the risk? Upgrade your support level with HP Care Pack Services to keep your business up and running with guaranteed same-day response.
P46,500
AMD 64 Opteron
From May 1 to Jun 30, 2007, get instant P5,000 discount when you buy an HP ProLiant ML115 Server and HP StorageWorks DAT 72 USB tape drive in a single Purchase Order.*
1-800-1441-6688
or (632) 867-3557
ph.contact@hp.com
www.iloveproliant.com.ph
hp

CEB hits 20M passengers

CEBU PACIFIC GARNERED ITS 20-millionth passenger in April 2007.

The airline which started operations in March 1996 has transported its yearly passenger traffic from 300,000 in its first year to almost 3.5 million passengers in 2006. It expects to carry more than five million passengers this year.

Candido Ang, CEB VP for marketing and product, said the milestone showed CEB's continuing success to bring air travel closer to more Filipinos.

"We have taken a little more than 11 years to carry the first 20th million passengers. Based on our growth rates, we expect to carry the next 20-million in just 5 to 6 years," Ang said.

ATI, ICTSI seen vying for cargo handling deal at Batangas Port

By Ron T. Clidoro

THE COUNTRY'S TWO MAJOR PORT operators—Asian Terminals Inc. and International Container Terminal Services Inc.—are preparing to bid for the cargo handling contract for the P5.3-billion second terminal of the Batangas Port, officials of the two firms said in separate interviews.

To be auctioned off in a 25-year negotiated bid by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), the terminal is expected to have an annual capacity of 7,000 twenty-foot equivalent units of cargo at a time.

In an interview, ATI chair Reyes Tuason said operating the second terminal at the Batangas Port would significantly boost the company's operations. She said the new terminal was bigger than the 20-hectare first phase. While the first phase caters only to passenger and domestic cargoes, the second terminal will handle a mix of bulk, break-bulk and international containerized cargo.

ATI is currently operating as the first terminal of the Batangas Port, South Harbor, Mabini and Sombi Canaan.

ICTSI, whose flagship port is the Manila International Container Terminal, also operates in Brazil, Ghana, Ecuador, Indonesia, Japan, Madagascar, Poland, and Spain.

ICTSI chair and president Enrique K. Razon said in an earlier interview that his company had obtained initial documents for the Batangas Port terminal-2 bidding and was prepared to submit an offer.

The two officials, however, declined to reveal the details of the offers they were preparing.

The Philippine Ports Authority is still pulling letters cleared (LOIs) from potential bidders.

In its bid bulletin, the PPA said the LOIs can be submitted until May 23, 2007 and the eligibility documents, until May 24, 2007. Afterwards, the PPA will choose seven companies who may bid for the management, operation, maintenance, development, and promotion of the new container terminal.

PPA said only companies with submitted LOIs and eligibility documents would be considered for shortlisting.

The port authority also reserved "the right to reject any or all bids, annul the bidding process, or award the contract to any prospective contractor deemed, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders."

CHYOGA Philippines Manufacturing Corp. director Imasa Oe, company president/CEO Michiko Oki and Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director General Lilia B. de Lima lead the inauguration of Chipoda's automobile wiring harness facility at the Lima Technology Center Special Economic Zone in Lipa City, Batangas. More shares in the plants are sought of the wiring harnesses that the company will produce for export.

AXA Phils keen on acquiring small insurers

By Michelle V. Ramos

PHILIPPINE AXA LIFE INSURANCE CORP. which earlier reported a 224-percent increase in first quarter premium collections, said it was open to acquiring smaller insurance firms in wake of meeting the increase in capitalization requirement set by regulators.

Andrew Alcid, president and chief operating officer of AXA Philippines, said a number of insurance firms had asked AXA to buy them out.

"We are interested in buying a company, but it has to be the right one. We have to look at the [balance sheets, especially those] liabilities," Alcid told the business in an interview.

AXA, which is 55-percent owned by Metrobank and 45-percent by AXA Europe, said it generated P5 billion worth of premium payments in the first quarter of the year, up 224 percent from year-ago level.

Alcid said sources of growth during the first quarter were in investment-linked insurance products, aided by its bancassurance businesses. He said bancassurance, under which its insurance products are sold in Metrobank branches, accounted for about 7% percent of AXA Philippines' business.

AXA Philippines climbed to first quarter performance ninth in the second-biggest overseas owned among the country's 54 life insurance firms following Philam Life, which displacing Sunlife and Insular life 8 was fourth in 2006.

The Insurance Commission earlier called on insurance firms to merge and asked larger firms to acquire those who can hardly meet the new capitalization requirements.

PhilNaRe Q1 income up 70%

NATIONAL REINSURANCE CORP OF THE Philippines posted a net income of P179 million in the first quarter of the year, 70 percent more than last year's P105.92 million.

The profit rise was fueled by the 15.4-percent increase in reinsurance premiums over the same period last year to P722 million.

In spite of the low interest rate environment, investment and other income grew to P1.07 million in the first quarter of 2007, a 68 percent quarter-on-quarter gain from P113 million in 2006. The 2006 figure already included a one-time gain of P51 million arising from the merger between PhilMalle and the PFI and Surbigco-led Reinsurance Malaysia Reinsurance Corp., which was completed in March 2006. Interest income increased by P16.3 million as a result of better yields on investments and listed income receivables.

The company cost to general and administrative expenses went slightly higher at P229 million, up by 11 percent over the first quarter 2006. The combined performance of civilians and general and administrative expense components enabled a robust increase in net income to P179 million. That translates into earnings per share for the period of P0.12, higher by P0.05 or 71.1 percent than year-ago level.

SBC reports 36% growth in assets

SECURITY BANK AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES' offshore has reported a 36 percent growth in assets in the first quarter to P107.4 billion.

Incremental funds came solely from deposits which soared 73 percent to P 66.1 billion. The liquidity generated enabled the bank to unload its investment borrowings, which plummeted by half. This substantially reduced the bank's cost of funds.

Excess funds were then channeled to loans, investments in government securities and placements with the Bangko Sentral.

Capital funds swelled P1.2.5 billion, up by almost P2 billion. This included the bank's first quarter profit of P718 million, 90 percent higher than year-ago level. This, according to the bank, was made possible by an increase in earning assets in addition gain by deposits.

Coming soon: Agribusiness Mindanao

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Regure-Rivera

AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS in Mindanao took the first step in their own hands when some 300 of their representatives met for the first Mindanao Agri & Food Convention (MAFCON) held in Laguna de Bay City last April 25-28, 2007.

The MAFCON ended with the leaders making a strong declaration of commitment and determination to pursue a unified private sector led development agenda for the Mindanao agriculture, fisheries and food industry.

"I remember telling," Convention Chairman Edwin Andrs, President of the host Chamber of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Industries of Southern Mindanao (CAFFASEM) exclaimed.

In his opening statement at the MAFCON, Andrs said, "We have come to realize that unless we embrace the reality of a globalized market environment, unless we in the production sector upgrade our technologies and cultivate potential, unless our drive can transform to be more entrepreneurial in our approach to our farms, we will not successfully handle the transition leap from traditional production to the more profitable world of agribusiness."

The Department of Agriculture has allocated some P2.5 billion in response funds over the next three years to service 175,000 farmers in Mindanao and another P5.5 billion to build over 3,400 kilometers of farm-to-market roads to develop a vibrant, competitive agribusiness Mindanao, Sapo Regure.

Technical Support for Agri Business

Training in entrepreneurship was emphasized because farmers, fisherfolk and food processors were still at a disadvantage compared to modern, efficient trade sector in market information.

Also, the producers associations' owners, invested their in updated monitoring information system for Mindanao's export winners as well as commodity export boards should be established and regularly funded by the government to provide vital market-world information.

Moreover, large-scale wholesale and retail business members need to be designed and established in strategic locations in Mindanao for a more mass-passion selling system.

This will bring about a systematic, clean, transparent, and vibrant market with defined players, standards, rules of farming and settlement.

Having government support in terms of resources and favorable climate is also needed.

One Mindanao-wide Agri Body

The most significant result of the conference was the resolution calling for the association to construct and draw up a Mindanao-wide network of agriculture and food producers.

This network is envisioned to solve the lead role in pursuing a common agenda through policy advocacy, investment and market tying and other resource-finding.

Thus, in the end of the MAFCON, those investments committed to undertake the following measures, endeavor to organize a Mindanao Chamber of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Industries, which will serve as the media advocacy group official sign, fisheries and food producers; consolidate and update existing industry development plans to draw up a common private sector led development agenda; establish, and or strengthen partnerships with other support groups such as donor institutions, non-government organizations, other industry associations or multi-sector programs and services beneficiaries that respective industries.

Among the producer associations who supported these initiatives were CAFFASEM, SOCSKSARGEN Federation of Fishing & Allied Industries, MinPeak Council, Nasuhidrogen, Pagbilao Group of Companies, GRAGA Oil Palm Producers Association, Northern Mindanao Dealer Association, Hapinoan, Tribal Council of Northern Mindanao, Greater Northern Mindanao Mangrove Development Foundation, Inc., Northern Mindanao Cement Industry Association, Bunawan Industry Development Association Region 11A and Northern Mindanao Coral Industry Association.

Indeed, MAFCON has succeeded in becoming the main forum for discussing the multi-sector Agribusiness Mindanao project.

As Convention Director Marvil Agbon put it "Being the brainchild of Mindanao's agriculture and rural communities, we see MAFCON growing to be the principal forum of exchange of experiences and technologies among Mindanao's agricultural producing sector. We envision a MAFCON emerging as the main avenue for making the development agenda of Mindanao agribusiness because looking at MAFCON as the priority trade stage for doing business and Mindanao agribusiness."

I see that a convergence of initiatives led by the private sector with public support, and this group surely has all of us in Mindanao looking it up.

Onward, Agribusiness Mindanao!

Our hope then is a strong and respected advocate for the development of the island. This is Chuck-Fortaleza Foundation, Phil. Coal Conservation, Mindanao Tech Voc Schools Association, Mindanao Rep. Rizza Development Council. Email comments to jojilaw02@yahoo.com)

Megaworld to invest P2B in BPO tower

By Bernard W. Dominguez

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER MEGAWORLD Corp. yesterday said it had allotted P2 billion to speed up the construction of a two-tower, 18-story business-process outsourcing complex in the Business Global City following the firm's declaration as an information technology (IT) economic zone.

Dubbed "Two World Square," the project is the second BPO building to rise in Megaworld's 129-hectare McKinley Hills township development.

Last month, Megaworld's wood Development Corporation Inc. (ZDC), which declared 21 hectares of the area an IT park, which already houses investors, such as investment holidays of up to eight years and exemption from duties and taxes on imported capital equipment.

Megaworld has just finished construction of the McKinley Hill's first BPO building—One World Square—which has 30,000 square meters of office space.

In a statement, Megaworld first vice president Andrew Go said the company expected demand for office space in McKinley to pick up following the pre-construction.

"We expect to complete the Two World Square by September 2008," Go said. "Every level will have 2,000 square meters of prime office space and can be extended to as much as 5,000 square meters."

He said Two World Square would have round-the-clock facilities, 300-percent backup power, high ceiling and scalable floor cables and fiber BPO connectivity.

"It would be connected to the planned 1,000-slot parking building and to the future Three World Square tower, which would offer another 25,000 square meters of BPO office space.

Megaworld has committed to construct two BPO buildings a year in the 14-hectare McKinley Hill Cyberpark up to 2016.

"The well-designed master plan of McKinley will allow the sound zoning of the office buildings, retail areas and residential communities making up the 92-hectare integrated community in the Fort Bonifacio Global City," Go said.

He added that this helped attract strong investor interest in One World Square, with business as usual in this third quarter.

Asian shares steady, but tech stocks under strain

SINGAPORE—ASIAN SHARES held steady on Wednesday, supported by a new record high in Wall Street's Dow Jones Index, but high-tech stocks underperformed Japan's SBI and South Korea's LG Electronics were pressured by a recent cut Tuesday.

Britain's FTSE 100 Index is expected to open 27.29 points lower, Financial bookmakers said, with investors waiting for a Bank of England inflation report later in the day for clues on the outlook for interest rates.

Japan's Nikkei Index crept up almost 0.1 percent in the lead up to Wednesday's trade, with auto shares such as Honda Motor Co. Ltd. propping up the market.

Investors are awaiting a Bank of Japan news conference on Thursday following a two-day policy meeting, and first-quarter growth data, due also on Thursday.

The BOJ is not expected to raise interest rates, which would slightly improve returns on the low-yielding yen. Many analysts expect a rate rise in the third quarter if the economy keeps growing at a steady pace.

Shares of SBI Corp. fell 2.3 percent after the electronic trader slumped its group net profit forecast for the year by more than three quarters.

But Sony rebounded 1.35 percent after initial losses ahead of its results, which were released after the market close and showed annual profit fell by 6 percent. It forecast sharp growth this year than exceeded market expectations.

Japan's vibration machinery tool-index ended up 0.3 percent, recouping earlier losses following a 4.6-percent drop in the technology index and a weak consumer spending.

"The market is unsure for as investors are making trade decisions mostly based on individual earnings results," said Ben Mandu, senior dealer to equities at Mizuho Securities.

South Korean technology shares came under pressure, with LG Electronics Inc. down 1.2 per cent and Samsung Electronics Co. eased 0.3 percent.

The Kospi, which suffered its biggest one-day percentage fall in a month on Tuesday, recovered on Wednesday by 0.7 percent.

Some analysts predict a massive correction following strong gains.

Asian markets are haunted by the late-February slump in Chinese markets that preceded a global sell-off.

"Overall the feeling is that the markets have risen too much. We may need to retreat a little bit more from these levels," said Ryoko Manabe, derivative analyst, Daiwa Securities.

The Shanghai stock index fell a sharp 3.4 percent on Tuesday but recouped 1.1 percent on Wednesday.

Investors snapped up shares of Belle International Holdings in record numbers, helping to raise $1.1 billion of China's top women's shoe retailer, by pricing its Hong Kong IPO at the top of an indicated range.

A slew of economic data, including figures showing a 17.4-percent annual surge in China's April factory output, could add impetus for Beijing to raise interest rates and take other measures to avoid overheating.

Hong Kong shares edged up 0.2 percent, while MSCI's measure of Asia Pacific stocks excluding Japan gained 0.3 percent.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.28 per cent to a record close—its 46th of the year—on Tuesday. In 2006...as some US inflation data fell open the prospect for Federal Reserve interest rate cuts later in the year.

The US consumer price index for April, excluding food and energy, showed the smallest 12-month increase since April 2006.

But the Nasdaq and the Standard & Poor's 500 Index both fell as US home builder confidence sank in May.

Hopes for US rate cuts helped US Treasuries to edge up in Asia.

But Japanese government bond futures held steady as investors awaited the country's economic growth data. They believe first-quarter gross domestic product data would prompt the BOJ to raise the overnight call rate to 0.75 percent only in the third quarter from 0.5 percent.

Reuters

Dow Jones index sets new record on tame inflation in US

China vows to take steps on trade surplus

BEIJING—CHINA VOWED ON Wednesday to take further movement to ease its booming trade surplus, but also called on the United States to trim it as an equal by not spreading protectionism the rise in distrust such tensions.

Vice Premier Wu Yi will lead a delegation of top officials to Washington next week for the second round of a "strategic economic dialogue" with the United States, at which the two are expected to discuss a range of economic and trade issues.

The United States has been pushing China to take more steps to trim its large surplus, including allowing the yuan to strengthen more quickly and opening up markets by a range of industries.

Wang Xiaoyi, spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce, told a news conference that China aimed to make better balance in its international payments and was not deliberately pursuing a trade surplus but that it would take a "certain long period of time" for it to disappear.

"On the former, we will take further steps to optimize the trade structure and transform the growth model of trade," Wang said, adding that would include steps to promote exports of high-or value-added products and services, while boosting imports of energy, raw materials, advanced technology and equipment.

Meanwhile, he also hoped that certain countries can ease up unreasonable curbs of high-tech exports to China so as to facilitate China to expand imports," he said.

The United States currently places restrictions on exports of some technology to China out of concern that it could be used in military applications.

Wang emphasized that the "strategic economic dialogue" with the United States was meant to be a platform to discuss long-term, comprehensive issues.

US lawmakers and officials have said repeatedly that they will be looking for tangible results from the meeting, as a matter of pressure on the trade.

"We hope that the United States will hold to the principles of mutual respect and equal treatment in working on the second round of the China-US strategic economic dialogue, to step up coordination with China and ensure the success of the second round of talks," he said. *Reuters*

A CROWD of people rushing to work at a subway in central Beijing. Chinese retail sales in April rose 13.3 percent year-on-year, the National Bureau of Statistics said on May 11. China's booming economy will lift the nation to second-place behind the United States as the world's biggest consumer market by 2015, a research report from Credit Suisse said recently. *AP*

PHOTO BY FRANCE KEYRAC

US inflation slows in April

WASHINGTON—CONSUMER INFLATION moderated slightly in April even though workers were stocked with another big jump in gasoline prices. Outside of energy and food, inflation pressures remained well-contained.

The Labor Department reported Tuesday that consumer prices rose by 0.4 percent last month following a 0.6-percent jump in March.

The April increase was slightly lower than Wall Street had been expecting and economists cheered because core inflation, which excludes the food and energy, edged up a slight 0.2 percent, the third month at this level or less after a stubborn 0.3 percent rise in January.

"The key aspect of this report is that the core inflation rate continues to moderate," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors.

Wall Street investors agreed, believing the better-than-expected reading on inflation would hasten the day when the Federal Reserve might start cutting interest rates to deal with an economy that has been battered by a significant slowing in housing.

Through the first four months of this year, consumer inflation is rising at an annual rate of 4.8 percent, almost double the 2.5-percent increase for all of 2006. The acceleration has occurred in large part because of higher costs for food and energy.

However, excluding energy and food, core inflation has risen at an annual rate of just 2.2 percent through April, an improvement from the 3.0-percent rise in core prices for all of 2006. *AP*

Chrysler to still use Daimler technology

AUBURN HILLS, MICHIGAN—Chrysler is prepared to stand on its own again after nine years, but will still work with its former parent in developing advanced technologies, Chrysler's chief executive said Tuesday.

Tom LaSorda met with reporters at Chrysler to private-equity firm Cerberus Capital Management LP.

Chrysler intends to continue on goals with German-based business and its various divisions on advanced-technology projects, including dozen-fuel programs, LaSorda said.

Monday's announcement brought to a close the $36 billion (euro26.6 billion) "merger of equals" that in 1998 attempted to create the ultimate global automotive powerhouse.

LaSorda said he was excited at the prospect of building a North American car company with Cerberus.

"We're going to rebound and come back," he said.

"We're on our way as a stand-alone company."

He said going private will mean running the company "the way we want to run it."

No longer free of criticizing the Daimler side of Chrysler, he said being independent will allow the company to take a longer-term outlook.

Still, he said, that won't prevent Chrysler from tapping Daimler's technological resources. For instance, the companies will continue to develop a new line of clean-burning diesel engines.

Chrysler also is seeking the assistance of outgoing Daimler-Chrysler chief operating officer who recently joined Cerberus as a senior executive. LaSorda, who planned to meet with Bernhard late Tuesday afternoon, said Bernhard can help with product development and the non-side of the business. *AP*

Oil holds above $68

TOKYO—OIL HELD STEADY ON Wednesday ahead of data expected to show increases in US crude and fuel stocks, with fierce prices hovering above $68 after a rally on further supply disruptions in Nigeria.

Gordon Brown crude currently seen as more representative of the global oil market, edged down 10 cents to $68.10 a barrel by dawn, after jumping almost 2 percent a day earlier. The contract expires on Wednesday.

US crude futures lost 12 cents to $63.89 a barrel.

Royal Dutch Shell has cut output by 170,000 barrels a day since last Thursday after "significant" oil spill a major oil pipeline hub, the firm said on Tuesday. Militant attacks have now shut off nearly 500,000 bpd, or about 20 percent of supply capacity from the world's eighth largest oil exporter.

"Brent is well outlooked and trading higher on US crude due to production problems in Nigeria," said Tetsu Emori, chief strategist at Mizuho Futures. "US crude is weighed down by expected increases in inventories."

Analysts forecast in a Reuters poll that government data due later on Wednesday will show US crude stocks up by 1.7 million barrels last week, increasing for the second week in a row as refiners recovered from maintenance shutdowns.

Crude inventories were expected to have risen by 1.86,000 barrels, while distillates were seen up 1.4 million barrels.

Rallying US gasoline stocks in recent weeks ahead of the summer driving season have helped push average US pump prices to a record $3.104 gallon.

But gasoline futures might decline as refiners continue to ramp up output, and there are no plans to tap its strategic oil reserve, the US government said.

Support on the oil market still comes from concerns over Iran's atomic work. Tehran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani said Iran's top European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana will meet on May 31 for a new round of talks on Tehran's nuclear programme, the Iran news agency said on Tuesday.

In neighboring Iraq, where production has been hit by sabotage and neglect, Iraq's state oil marketing body SOMO will become the first foreign firm in more than three decades to start pumping Iraqi crude into the global market next month, the Financial Times said on Wednesday.

However, major non-OPEC producer Russia on Tuesday slashed its 2007 oil and gas production forecast by 9.4 percent due to pipeline delays, taking total oil production to about 2.6 million bpd for this year, down from 2.8 million in 2006. *Reuters*

Sony's loss widens in Q1

TOKYO—SONY'S LOSS IN THE JANUARY March quarter widened from a year ago, partly on massive sum for the new PlayStation 3 game machine, but the company forecast better days ahead on strong sales of flat TVs and other electronics.

Sony Corp. ended up at ¥7.6 billion yen ($62 million) last for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, worse than the 5.2 billion yen loss the Japanese electronics and entertainment company reported the same period a year earlier.

Quarterly sales rose nearly 13 percent to 2.01 trillion yen ($16.8 billion) from the previous year, according to the Tokyo-based company behind the Walkman portable music player and "Spider-Man" movies.

Sony developed the Bravia liquid crystal display TV, Sun personal computers and Handycam video cameras helped lift sales, Sony said in a statement.

For the fiscal year through March, net profit is forecast up 2 percent to 120.5 billion yen ($1.1 billion).

But for the current fiscal year, Sony expects profit will more than double to 320 billion yen ($2.7 billion).

That upbeat outlook appeared to reflect a steady gradual reversal in its electronics unit, which had been battered by competition from Korean and Taiwanese rivals in Sony's most profitable units.

Southeast Asia carves bigger slice of direct investment pie

SINGAPORE—AFTER YEARS OF pouring direct investment into China, foreign firms are discovering that neighboring Southeast Asian countries offer a wealth of opportunities in the near future.

The region may well be on the verge of a surge in foreign investment, says Lehman Brothers economist Bob Subbaraman.

"In terms of Southeast Asia's economy, the big missing part of growth has been the lack of foreign direct investment," he said.

"This is starting to change. There's an expectation that these economies can't be growing at 7 to 8 percent on a sustained basis if they get this investment surge going," he said.

Evidence of a pick-up in foreign direct investment is lacking.

From Indonesia, the world's biggest archipelago nation, which has just said it will build a $1.4-billion plant in the Philippines—a move that some industry watchers say breaks the myth that China is the only place to invest in Asia.

Premier's signed as a PDI during a visit to Manila by Arroyo, who joined the World Trade Organization in January, while other countries that have fared poorly on the investment front are seeing signs of change.

Malaysia approved a record $5.78 billion in FDI in manufacturing in 2006 and first quarter foreign and domestic investment applications in Indonesia even at a record high.

"There is something of a mood shift in the region, and everyone is—a more positive attitude than there was six months ago," said Peter Wallace, head of private think-tank Wallace Business Forum is the Philippines.

Obstacles such as corruption remain a worry, but economists say seeing the benefits of PDI are a long-term process. They don't doubt that the potential boost to economic growth is huge.

Rising foreign investment in Southeast Asia is said to be driven by several factors: inflation is generally under control, many Asian nations have improved, corporate taxes are being cut and other measures are being passed to encourage investment.

"The overall investment picture, not just FDI, is improving—increased investment in infrastructure, turnaround in the property cycle, capacity constraints in manufacturing causing more investment in plant and equipment," said Adrian Mowat, Blackstone, head of economics research at Commercial Group.

China attracted some $78 billion of FDI last year, dwarfing foreign investment into Asia.

FDI into the 12-member Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) was estimated at $35 billion in 2006 versus almost $40 billion in 2005.

Still, the latest FDI into ASEAN has surpassed pre-1997/1998 financial crisis levels. FDI in 1996 was just over $30 billion.

The total is expected to rise further, narrowing the gap with China.

Also firms are adopting a "China plus one" approach—they keep a place in China but set up a second one in Southeast Asia to control costs, said a Singapore-based Canadian economist.

Laurence Fee, CEO at the Asia strategy and investment consultancy Indaller Strategy, said Southeast Asia's high economic growth rates have caused by appeal to investors wanting to expand markets and lower costs.

Governments are stepping up efforts to encourage investment.

Philippine Economic Singapore can outpace our in their locus but gets. Indonesia in March passed an investment law, an investor-friendly measure that addresses issues such as land rights.

FDI flows into neighboring Malaysia are expected to roughly 3 percent of GDP and more than 20 percent of GDP in Singapore.

In Singapore, which accounts for around 20 percent of FDI flows into Southeast Asia, FDI growth rates have yet to recover to pre-1998 levels of about 18 to 20 percent. *Reuters*

The World's No. 1 Brandy*

Emperador Brandy is in a league all its own.
It ranked as the world's best-selling brandy in 2006.
A supreme testimony to Emperador's premium quality
recognized by the most discriminating drinkers.

Make your every celebration truly grand with
your favorite brandy. The world's No. 1 brandy.
Emperador Brandy. A toast to excellence.
And success.

*Certified by IWSR Beverage Research and The IWSR Drinks Record, UK

Proudly Produced by

EMPERADOR DISTILLERS, INC.
INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

A Member of

ALLIANCE GLOBAL

SALAD DAYS

- All kinds of greens /C4
- Step-by-step grilled salad/D3

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chela Bautista-Formoso

culinary arts

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 1BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

Mixing, tossing and dressing—rules for a perfect salad

I REMEMBER WHEN, DESPITE coming down from Baguio after our Holy Week sojourn feeling-kalung-ang-gaday, salad season only a plate of pinkish beaten-nipped leaves of iceberg lettuce topped with discs of tomatoes and cucumbers tossed in the room quintessential of dressings, the Thousand Is-land.

Now things have changed! Today eating a salad is actually an exciting and sometimes, very-very-affair.

Thank God the days when eating a plate of greens made you feel like a goat are way over! Even in the tropics, we can now enjoy a crisp plate of salad greens, whether grown locally or imported from overseas.

To me, a well-made salad is a plate of sur-

NOW OPEN at
TRINOMA MALL
EDSA, QUEZON CITY

GEOX
BREATHES

INTERNATIONAL PATENT

GLORIETTA 2, ROBINSONS GALLERIA TELE 810-0000, ALABANG TOWN CENTER TELE 8-000040, MALL OF ASIA TELE 556-0115, THE P.O.I.N.T. TELE 637-9010, The BLOCK TELE 442-0108, TRINOMA MALL TELE 797-0373

Your World of Privileges

ANG MAS MATINDING WESTERN UNION GOLD CARD℠
LIBRE AT MAS MARAMI NANG DAHILAN PARA MAGSAYA!

Kung mala-ka gang FREE Western Union Gold Card, mag-apply na at:
• Automatically entitled ka sa Buys Gold Benefits just by presenting your card.*
• Every time you Send or Receive money with Western Union, you get Premium Gold Benefits!
*May reserve pang discounts and bonuses ang mabubuhat mo!**

Sign up for the improved Western Union Gold Card. Libre 'to! Call 888-1200 within Metro Manila or 632 888-1200 outside Metro Manila (MMS rates apply) or 1-800-1-888-1200 (PLDT toll-free) or 1-800-8-888-1200 (Globelines toll-free) for more information.

Air Philippines · Ramon Salcon · DHL · Goldilocks · Jollibee · WESTERN UNION

SERVE LOVE AT MEALTIME

By it's just so all-time mealtimes are the best time to bond with the family. There's nothing like sharing hot food, an ice cold Coke and good conversations to strengthen family relationships. So make mealtimes an occasion to serve some family love. Here are some helpful tips on how mealtime can family love:

• PRIORITIZE MEALTIMES TOGETHER
Emphasize the importance of mealtime and encourage each other to eat together.

• SERVE THE MEAL WITH A SMILE
It's not "what" you serve, it's "how" you serve it. A meal served with love and tenderness will outshine any gourmet dish.

• LISTEN TO WHAT EVERYONE HAS TO SAY
Give time for everyone to talk — children and adults. Nobody should be excluded.

• COOK IT QUICK, EAT IT SLOW
Save elaborate menus for when you have time to spare. The important thing is setting the time to enjoy a meal together.

• SWITCH OFF THE TV AND SWITCH ON TO ONE ANOTHER
It's time family members interact with their own lives.
Start relating to each other, rather than a character on the TV.

Whether you're making a simple lunch or a big family feast, remember to dish up that affection. Mealtimes shouldn't just nourish the body but the heart, mind and soul as well. The family that is nourished physically and emotionally becomes happier and grows closer with one another.
As the saying goes, the family that eats together, stays together.

Coca-Cola

THE CONSUMER

Greening the fashionista

By Linda B. Bolido

A TYPICAL GROCERY BILL of US$900 or about P45,000, the big is more than many Filipinos can see even.

But, but, if that is what it takes to make the rich and fashion conscious more environmentally—and if they have the money to do—then, by all means, let them take shopping bags by Stewart, Stella McCartney and Consuelo Castiglioni of Marni.

An Associated Press story released by the Canadian Press says the three are among the world's top designers to now offering reusable shopping bags.

Chic and pricey the bags are a fashionable alternative to paper or plastic. The same goes a nod to environment protection without sacrificing style.

AP says Hermes' Silky Day bag (3rd pun on silk in the United States alone will cost US$910. "Made of hand-wrought silk, it collapses into a wallet-size pouch of roll-dust," the news agency reports.

Consignment offers a foldable nylon bag for US$945 while McCartney, daughter of Sir Paul of Beatles' fame, has an organic canvas for "only" US$495.

AP reports, "Reusable shopping bags could now mostly confined to farmers' markets and health food co-ops—have increased in popularity as cities consider banning the use of cotton plastic bags and encourage shoppers to do more for the environment."

San Francisco, the California city that has often provoked its detractors' ire (Berkeley, reportedly became the first major American city to ban the use of non-biodegradable plastic grocery bags.

Now other United States cities are considering similar proposals.

Greening students

Meanwhile, our environmental groups Adel Tiri Volunteers and ReuseWare Coalition have come up with a list of tips for parents and students on how to reduce trash and save money by back-to-school mode.

The tips, the groups hope, will help families with limited budgets cope with the expenses of a new school year while minimizing waste and producing.

The groups said spending associated with school opening has environmental costs rarely considered by parents and the over 22 million students who will return to class.

The groups point out that the manufacturers of many of the things they will buy use fossil fuel energy like coal, oil, gas and petrol. These are not renewable resources and these are also contributors to climate change.

"By following the green tips," consumers delay or eliminate the need to extract more raw materials and manufacture new products and consequently reduce the demand for fossil fuels and minimize the release of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide into the atmosphere," the environmental groups said.

Among the groups' suggestions:

Instead of buying, see if you can borrow from schoolmates and friends the textbooks and school-use materials you need.

Check second-hand bookstores before buying a new book.

Reuse magazine covers, gift wrappers or grocery bags to cover books and notebooks.

Take good care of your books so you can pass them on to friends and relatives.

Donate used books to school or community libraries.

Ask friends your station-ers and see when school materials you already have or when can be reused or recycled before purchasing.

Reuse scrap paper as lecture or research notes.

When shopping for new school supplies, look for products that are made from recycled materials or have minimum waste and carry excess. Choose materials products for your students and teachers.

Renovate locally produced school supplies. You do not only support the local industries, but also lessen the fossil fuel energy used to transport things.

Select durable school supplies that can be reused, recycled, repaired or refilled. This will help reduce the amount of discards.

Use a reusable carry bag when you shop.

Have your kids' uniforms altered by a dressmaker and your shoes repaired by a shoemaker instead of buying new things.

Bring a reusable water jug to school instead of buying bottled water and sugar-filled beverages and juices.

Bring native delicacies and healthy food for snacks in reusable containers and avoid junk food in plastic wrappers. Buy easy from Bicolanos and other times store plastic disposables.

Replace disposable paper napkin with reusable rag or handkerchief.

Car pool or use public transport to school bus. Try biking or walking to school to save fuel, minimize air pollution and reduce traffic congestion.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, No. 185 V. Luz St., Mandaluyong and Bgao Bo., Makati City, or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph.

Weeds, ferns . . .

Pamagat Ko

WILD spice, could scorpion-like wreath

But not must be now no pesticides or insecticides have been used on them.

Other edible plants

Apart from weeds, the book lists other plants that can be used for salads. There are those whose leaves need to be blanched such as the pangpang and the alibangbang, kamyog or nerving glory belongs to the kamyo family. Alibangbang or orchid vine (Bauhinia sp.) is also used for coaxing purgang.

Other plants require that only young leaves are used for salads. Ferns are among them. Here's the dark leafed pako or sagpaho. There's the pako-pakopakopako or elephant fern.

Perhaps the most colorful salad I've ever encountered is the one involving shape leaves featured after a Thai restaurant, the velvety leaves are usually served fried and fresh shallots, lemon, chili and nuts, among others. These can be substituted for salad ingredients like chopped tomatoes, tangerine, sliced eggs and whatever other flavors are required.

Not everyone knows that the elegant Dendrobium orchid can be eaten. The petals of the Benedictine Monastery in Malaybalay were grateful to learn that the leaves of their elegant flower could be used for food.

Alugna is also used to scrap fish for charcoal broiling, imparting its inner-like aroma and flavor. It is also used to decorate carnivorous fish.

Mixing, tossing and dressing . . .

Pamagat Ko

dients, a myriad of colors and textures ready to be captured on canvas, and a symphony of flavors waiting to be had in one perfect bite!

A perfect salad is quite easy to put together if you remember the rules...

• Let your imagination run wild with your choice of greens. Use assorted varieties or a mix (see a bag of mesclun (assorted young salad leaves). There are Salad Time mixes in supermarkets and they are wonderful! Mixing greens will add depth to your salad as some leaves are peppery like the arugula while others are bitter like endive, escarole, chicory. Apart from flavor, mixing greens gives you texture and color.

• Wash your greens carefully. Handling your greens is important since you are eating them raw. Wash them thoroughly and dry them, preferably in a salad spinner. 500 grams serves 4 without the dressing.

• Serving portion—two cups of greens per person.

• All salad components should be prepared at bite-size pieces.

• Adding other ingredients not from raw, steamed then cooled, cooked (i.e. strawberries or roasted) makes your salad more exciting.

• Buy bottle of basic salad dressings, eggs, olives, nuts, cured meats such as bacon and ham. They can be stored in the ref.

• Most coarse salads are made by adding a piece of grilled chicken, steak or fish, raw cooked seafood such as prawns and scallops.

• Set all salad tool to be greens found. For pasta, cooked potatoes, beans, corn, cauliflower, etc. Remember that if you use a lean-fiber than greens, toss the dressing before the ingredient coats them for better absorption of flavors. If using pasta or potatoes, rinse in water and coat in oil to cool making.

Dressing the salad

• Salads should never be over-dressed. The dressing is only to coat your salad not soak. Toss and toss just before serving.

• I would rave about our oil-based vinaigrette dressing to two cups of greens, of course depending on the type of dressing. I would use a bit less for a strong vinaigrette and a bit more for a creamy dressing.

• The best green salads are those that are crisp and slightly chilled. Keep your greens rolled in zip-lock bags (they keep better). I store mine this way until ready to use. If possible, chill your serving dishes (plates or bowls) before putting your greens in.

One of the most frightful ways to toss your salad is to pour your dressing into the zip-lock bag of greens and shake. Transfer to a serving bowl and toss.

Ask Vicki! Questions!

• Vinaigrette vs. other: Basic ratio of oil to one part vinegar (1) tsp vinegar and 1 tbsp oil per serving size), season with salt and pepper.

• Experiment on the types of oil and vinegar as well. Different types produce different flavors. Give on the vinegar though. Some are too strong and you may the "delicate flavor" that you wish for your salad.

• If you plan not to mix your vinaigrette in a bowl and just use to dress your salad in the greens, remember to put the vinegar before the oil. Otherwise, the vinegar will not penetrate the leaves.

• Try adding herbs and spices to your vinaigrette, too. Other ingredients you can add are garlic, shallots, ginger, grated or minced onions. In place of vinegar try fresh lime juice or calamansi juice. Soy sauce. Fruit juice. Fruit purees, a pinch of sugar, honey mustard, all these in minute quantities make your dressings far more interesting.

The key to perfect dressing is your own taste buds. For your particular of the ingredients taste or mine and keep tasting. You will know you have a good dressing when your taste buds are happy.

• One of the easiest ways to make a dressing is to put the ingredients into an empty jar and shake vigorously.

• For emulsified dressings, I will like avoiding with a blender. With the motor running, combine all your ingredients and add your oil last in a fine stream. Be sure a whisk in the oil-water of a project, combine everything in a jar and shake vigorously. Green and herbs in Open-ended spin the summer thrilling or vinaigrettes immediately remove the seeds.

• For less calorie-creamy dressings, substitute yogurt for your cream.

• For dressings with non-yolk base. To avoid salmonella, bring water to a boil. When bubbly boiling, put egg and cook for one minute. Cool and use the yolks for your dressing.

E-mail the author at vmayfield@yahoo.com

ANG MAS MATINDING WESTERN UNION GOLD CARD*

Your World of Privileges

BALIK-ISKWELA, BALIK SAYA
GAMITIN NA ANG WESTERN UNION GOLD CARD!*

Free 1 serving Sago Gulaman for a minimum purchase of Php 300

10% discount on all Disney and Mickeyana for kids

Free Fresh Lumpiang Ubod or 2 Servings Garlic Rice for every order of one Whole Regular Chicken

10% discount for a minimum purchase of Php 500

Php 500 discount on WOW Magic Sing Microphone

WESTERN UNION

TAKING A STEP FORWARD IN FASHION, A STEP BACK IN TIME.

If the shoe fits then wear it or so goes the saying, which carries a deep hidden meaning that goes beyond the idea of a person and signifies their role in society. Your shoes tell people who you are and what you're made of. It's a status symbol. Dumond, one the country's most trusted shoe brands today understands the need for luxurious style that defies trends and time. This season, Dumond brings us another classic to exciting to your style and personality.

ICONS OF AGELESS BEAUTY

At a time of Kings and queens, step into the shoes inspired by the fashion icons Queen Marie Antoinette. Bring back a regal style set in the 21st Century This era epitomizes glamour, class and regal presence imbued in French fashion. The Marie Antoinette collection from Dumond is a line that surrounds the word "excess" style. It brings an aura of wealth as stated by such noble materials, as satin and velvet. The European knights' courtly aura has its space in the riding boots.

A modern "Breakfast at Tiffany's"-styled fashion, reinvented with thick heels and platforms. The diva Audrey Hepburn's stunning beauty and magnificent classic reminiscent of the 50s get ramified in square toes, peep toe shoes, pointed toes and a lot of patent leather.

The 60s, touch of model Twiggy reigned sets our absolute with her mo. Progressive style. You can never go wrong with this minimalist touch on the geometric shapes and the simply deserving presence of ballerinas.

Since we are on the topic of iconic personalities, Let's jump straight to the 80s and relive the era of dominated by Madonna. Colors and print profusions discovery of that decade, made with such materials as gregarian and elastin.

The 90's exploded with teen spirit as propelled by one phenomenal personality. This was the time of the grunge movement sweeping across USA, and the rest of the world. Far from just a seasonal fad, the reflection of this age sustainers on to this day. It is another highlight style available in the Dumond's 2007 winter collection. A strongly influenced style pursuer in the wide boots and leather garments with a street-set aspect, earthy hues, added with shades gray and black coats, telling a rebellious and free spirited lifestyle.

Dumond invites you to discover its 2007 winter collection. Through a selection of styles that best support the ever-unfolding eras that molded our society. fall in love with the ingenious mixture of materials and colors in an ageless blend that screams out I'm in style.

There are different styles fitting for different people and so excited as the personalities that come along with them, each one unique and important in their own area let's not try out a pair of shoes that will fit you, at a Dumond Boutique nearest you.

DUMOND STORES

MAS PINATAMIS ANG SALO-SALO WITH WESTERN UNION!

GET A 5% DISCOUNT ON GREETING CARDS* AT Goldilocks, PRESENT YOUR WESTERN UNION GOLD CARD™ AT ANY GOLDILOCKS STORE NATIONWIDE.

HENY SISON

CULINARY SCHOOL

THE ESSENTIAL COOKING SERIES: This 30-day hands-on class is an introductory step in handling the basics of cooking a delicious meal. August 6 - September 5, 2007. Wednesdays & Fridays from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

THE ESSENTIAL BAKING & PASTRY SERIES: This 30- day hands-on class will cover the basics of pastry, desserts, bread baking as well as the proper techniques to achieve these goodies in a professional kitchen. Classes begin on June 25 - October 27, 2007. Classes are held every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Call us for more information regarding classes, costs, guest and chefs in for more information call the HSCS at 721-7788 and 441-3000 loc. 2013.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

We're opening a new branch in Makati. We need Chef instructors, Office & Kitchen Staff.
For more information, visit our website www.henysison.com

BLANCHE leaves and stuffing ingredients

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Perez

Weeds, ferns and plant salad

PAKITOMATOMA, DAMONG, DAHON kalad. The names may be strange to most people but to Mme Aquino Lichauco, they are useful words.

Lichauco is known as many as a cooking teacher who enjoys on hands-on training. One day, she decided to share the best value of these words could be used for eating.

A description of these weeds, their uses as well as propagation and care are in the book "Ginger... Don't Throw Those Weeds Away." Published by The Fern and Nature Society of which Lichauco is a member, the book also includes ferns, shrubs and vines, palms, vines and trees.

But the weeds were the ones I knew little about. My sister once pointed to me the potent purslane (pepenosin), which she said was served to her as a salad on one of her many provincial trips.

It was difficult to take her seriously. Most of us weed our flower beds daily to save gardens, hardly paying attention to what we consider as garbage to be thrown away.

After the book came out, Lichauco invited me and her three co-authors to lunch to tell me more about the plants we normally throw away. I never been made it — Carmen Ostrella Florentino and Nenita S. Dolores. Five brains for sure was busy that day.

The Blushing Bromo salad greeted us. It was one of the recipes in the book and consisted of the edible flowers Ophiuchus saxatilis, the pansy purslane Portulacaria afra and a orange ingredient described in our as wild pipits.

BLUSHING Bromo Salad with creamy dressing

FOR JR Aquino Lichauco (left) with Carmen Ostrella Florentino

Mini cucumbers

The wild pipits looked like miniature cucumbers and were as crunchy. They were taken Lichauco's farm where the plant grew almost everywhere as that it became invasive and could be a real "pest," she said.

People in the surrounding area of her farm warned her the plant might be poisonous but she told them it was not.

For the authors, if certain plants like weeds can be identified as edible, they are one more gold supply in the countryside. The book's dedication page is emphatic about that. It reads, "Helping Filipinos digest magazine the Filipino should go hungry."

But while some weeds are edible, they have to be cleaned like salad greens. Lichauco gave a helpful tip — soak with water with ½ tea spoon salt added.

The Blushing Bromo salad that lunch dressed a bit with the addition of pickled onion that contributed not only flavor but also a striking color. The creamy dressing consisted of mayonnaise and pickle relish, calamansi juice, vinegar and chopped onions and garlic seasoned with salt, sugar and white pepper.

The recipe said to decorate the salad with edible flowers as well. Lichauco mentioned she had nasturtiums, wine red hibiscus and blue torenia.

Despite its name, the kamias or vegetable **[illegible]** (*Averrhoa grandiflora*) is a beautiful flower. It has a white variety as well. The book suggests removing the stamen in order not to be bitter.

The blue-purple Filipino in Quezon, at Ugu dispatch house where it grows as a vine around his house. Its cheerful blue color added sparkle to the pottery artist's grotesque but wonderful bamboo and banana leaves salad with a dressing of coconut milk consisted from the steamed toasted scraped meat.

But I was surprised when the cadena de amor or Mexican creeper was recommended as a flower ingredient. Unlike the katuray, its name is an immortal as its bears shaped flowers.

In using these flowers, the book cautions

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2007 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER D1

LIFESTYLE

BANGUS Salad

A meal in itself

A COLD SALAD FOR APPETIZER OR A meal in itself, Bangus Salad is made from three kinds of sweet potatoes (yellow, white, and violet) and mixed with smoked bangus.

It is one of the bestsellers that Bangus Specialty Restaurant is offering at its new branch at Level M-1 fronting the iconic elevators and gardens in Trinoma, the first Ayala-owned shopping mall in Quezon City.

Here's the recipe from Bangus Republic Inc. owners and managers of Bangus Specialty Restaurants (1/F SM City North Edsa, 3/F Trinoma and 1/F Glorietta 3). www.bangusrepublic.com; e-mail e-mail@bangusrepublic.com).

Bangus Salad

- 2/3 g kamote, yellow
- 2/3 g kamote, violet
- 2/3 g Baguio beans
- 2/3 g tomato
- 1½ g shallots
- ½ pc red egg
- 75 g bangus fillet
- ½ g soybean
- ½ g ground black pepper
- 50 g lettuce (Lollo Rossa)
- 75 g Vinaigrette Sauce

Vinaigrette Sauce

- 300 g corn oil
- 2½ g garlic
- ½ g salted fish
- ½ g ground black pepper
- 2½ g vinegar

Mix all boiled vegetables together with chopped shallots and add half cup of vinaigrette sauce, season with salt and pepper and serve on a bed of lettuce.

Now Open at Trinoma
free to be casual Hush Puppies

Glenda Barretto is Ifex food director

GLENDA BORJES-BARRETTO, ONE OF the country's most successful chefs and restaurateurs, will be the food director of this year's International Food Exhibition (Ifex) Philippines to be held May 16-20 at the World Trade Center, Manila.

Ifex, now in its fourth year, showcases the best offerings of the local food industry. It is organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

This year, the festival focuses on "Filipino Food is a Global Offering."

Barretto has been helping Citem in its promotional food expos where it partnerships, helping exporters develop recipes that can be marketed in the countries.

She suggests that, aside from participating in trade fairs abroad and organizing local food exhibitions, the government can also make a conscious effort to help food companies put up restaurants in places like Paris, New York, London or Milan.

She says she is willing to train people who will run these restaurants.

The international says her dream is for Philippine cuisine to be recognized more nationally and for Filipinos to be proud of their unique cuisine.

Barretto owns the Via Mare chain. Its first restaurant in Legaspi Village, Makati that opened in 1979, was the first fine dining seafood restaurant in the country. Via Mare became the source of choice for Malacañang events.

BARRETTO

SLIMMERS WORLD
GREAT BODIES. GREAT SKIN.

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!
FOR ENROLEES TODAY! TO GET YOU STARTED.
Plus! FREE TRIAL!
PERSONAL TRAINING AND ALL THE LATEST AEROBICS!
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP. 0% INTEREST. NO HIDDEN DUES! WITH MEDICAL SUPERVISION.
BODY METRICS
Introducing LIPO SLIM
SCULPT YOUR CURVES BODIES DONE, HAVE FUN!
CALL US: FITNESS HOTLINE 536-3333
MOBILE NUMBER 091-SLIMMERS (7546377)
www.slimmersworld.com.ph inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

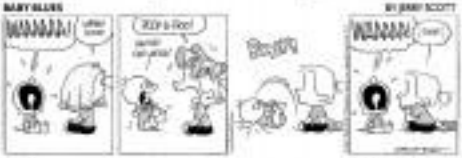
BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!
ON SKIN, FACE & BODY TREATMENTS.
FIRST 25 SLOTS.
CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%.
- MESO WHITE
- MESO REJUVENATION
- COSMETIC FILLERS
- NUTRACELL-FACE
- WART REMOVAL
- LASER ACNE TREATMENT
- SKIN WHITENING
- FACIAL

DIAMOND ULTRAPEEL
For beautiful smooth white skin.
CALL US: SKIN HOTLINE 525-8771
MOBILE 091-SLIMMERS NUMBER (7546637)

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN — BY JOSS ARIEN

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT



PUGAD BABOY — BY NIK JUNIOR

NUTTS — BY PATRICK HUDDENHILL

LOVEBYTES — BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

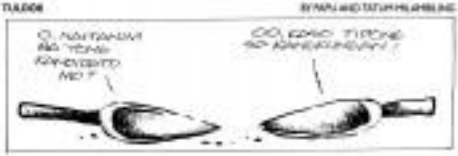
ATOMIC AND WEEDY — BY LYNN GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PABUAYAO

RIKO MACHINE — BY TRIXIE ARIEN

HIGHSCHOOL — BY JONNETTE DO

TULDOK — BY RAFA AND TATJAN HILARIDEZ



BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

			2		8			
		1						
	4		3		8			2
		8			6	5		
2								6
		9	4			7		
4			2		5		3	
						1		
		7		1				

Difficulty Level ★★★

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Inc. by Dave Green. Used with permission.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	2	1	7	8	9	4	5	6
9	8	5	6	3	4	2	7	1
6	4	7	1	5	2	8	3	9
7	9	6	3	4	8	5	1	2
1	3	2	9	7	5	6	8	4
4	5	8	2	1	6	3	9	7
8	6	3	4	1	7	9	2	5
5	1	9	8	2	3	7	4	6
2	7	4	5	9	1	6	3	8

★★★

1 **CHOP** romaine lettuce into bite-size pieces. Set aside.

2 **MARINATE** chicken in olive oil, white wine, Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce and bay leaf for at least 20 minutes. Grill chicken, skin side first, for two to three minutes. Then another one to three minutes for the other side. Sprinkle with salt and rosemary. Cut grilled chicken into strips. Set aside.

3 **LIGHTLY** brush all vegetables with olive oil mixed with salt and pepper.

4 **PLACE** on grill and cook over medium-high, occasionally turning until tender and slightly charred, about two to three minutes.

'Grilling' a salad

CPK'S Grilled Vegetable Salad

Text by Vangie Bago-Reyes
Photos by Ryan Lim

WHEN THE TEMPERATURE RISES and all you have the energy to eat is something light and cool, a salad can fill you up without making you feel bloated.

And you can fix yourself a salad in no time at all with CPK's cool recipe that is a unique combination of warm and cold ingredients, courtesy of your favorite salad and pizza place, California Pizza Kitchen.

The Grilled Vegetable Salad is a hearty mix of grilled asparagus, eggplant, zucchini, sun-dried tomatoes, scallions and mushrooms, served warm and tossed with romaine lettuce in a Dijon balsamic vinaigrette; it is topped with fresh avocado. As an option, you can add grilled rosemary chicken breast or grilled shrimp.

"Blending vegetables off the grill with fruits and fresh greens, nuts come up with an appealingly crisp, colorful and tasty seasoned salad.

"The smoky vegetables can easily liven up any salad of choice," says chef Jose Olaes, CPK's senior quality assurance director. "The grilled vegetable salad has been the team's bestseller since we introduced it a few months ago."

CPK has its own mix of marinade for its chicken and a special Dijon dressing for the salad. But it accommodates substitutions if you wish to try the recipe at home.

You can purchase a bottle of balsamic vinaigrette in major supermarkets. Enhance the taste of the vinaigrette by adding Dijon mustard, garlic, salt and pepper and olive oil. Blend accordingly to taste.

You can also get sun-dried tomatoes from supermarkets.

Grill the vegetables in batches, the more vegetables, the better. Remove them from the grill as soon as they are cooked. When grilling asparagus, place it across the grate so it does not fall through. Roll the asparagus on the grill to turn and cook until crisp-tender, about three minutes, depending on the size of the spears. Grill the zucchini and eggplant, turning once, until tender.

CPK has branches in Glorietta 5, Ayala Center Makati, Cubao Expo Pelikan, Alabang Town Center, Greenbelt 3, Bellagio Square, Tomas Morato, Quezon City, Shangri-La Mall, Mandaluyong, and Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan.

Ingredients

- romaine lettuce
- Dijon balsamic vinaigrette
- sun-dried tomatoes
- Carnitas cut, drained
- green onions (scallions)
- Zucchini, cut lengthwise
- Asparagus
- Eggplant, cut lengthwise
- Avocado, 1/2" sliced
- Chicken breast
- Rosemary

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbagob@inquirer.com.ph.

5 **MEANWHILE**, sauté corn in pan. Add a dash of salt. Cook until brown. Transfer corn on plate. Set aside. Place grilled veggies on a tray to cool. Then chill for 10-15 minutes.

6 **CUT** all veggies into bite-size pieces.

7 **ARRANGE** veggies around the plate. Microwave for a few seconds to avoid spoilage.

10 **SERVE** chicken breast on top.

9 **SURROUND** with warmed vegetables. Spread avocado pieces over the top of the salad.

Step By Step

This recipe from CPK is a unique combination of warm and cold ingredients

8 **PLACE** lettuce on a bowl. Add Dijon balsamic vinaigrette. Mix well. Arrange lettuce on a platter to serve.

White asparagus festival

THE PENINSULA MANILA'S OLD MANILA restaurant is holding "The White Asparagus Festival." Adam Martin, executive chef, offers asparagus dishes from appetizer and soup to main dish. The festival also includes "MAMA ... asparagus!" a cooking class (4 p.m. / 2 noon, May 19). Call (02) 887-2888.

SOLAIRE'S SUN SELLERIA Wednesday events: Kids dine for free for children 7 years old and younger who are dining with their parents (one kid per family). The promo is valid every day, including holidays, for breakfast, lunch and dinner buffet at the Mediterranean restaurant. Call 8307111.

SHATI-KOTEL AND CASINO Tuesday events offers Sunday Brunch featuring dim sum selections like Steamed Pork Dumplings with Flying Fish Roe; Baked Puff Pastries Filled with Honey Barbecued Pork; and Deep-fried Bean Curd Sheets Filled with Shrimp. The buffet is priced at P888+ inclusive of food tax, soft drinks and alcohol beers. The fireplace presents white asparagus dishes until May 31. Call 2451234.

INTERCONTINENTAL Manila's Fitness Wellness Restaurant presents "Detox Festival" until May 18. Executive chef Patrick Fournes has prepared such specialties as Detox Chicken Cacciatore, Detox Bouillabaisse and Detox Duck Livers. Call 8108111.

OLD MANILA'S assistant restaurant manager Rosalinda Ortiz serves white asparagus.

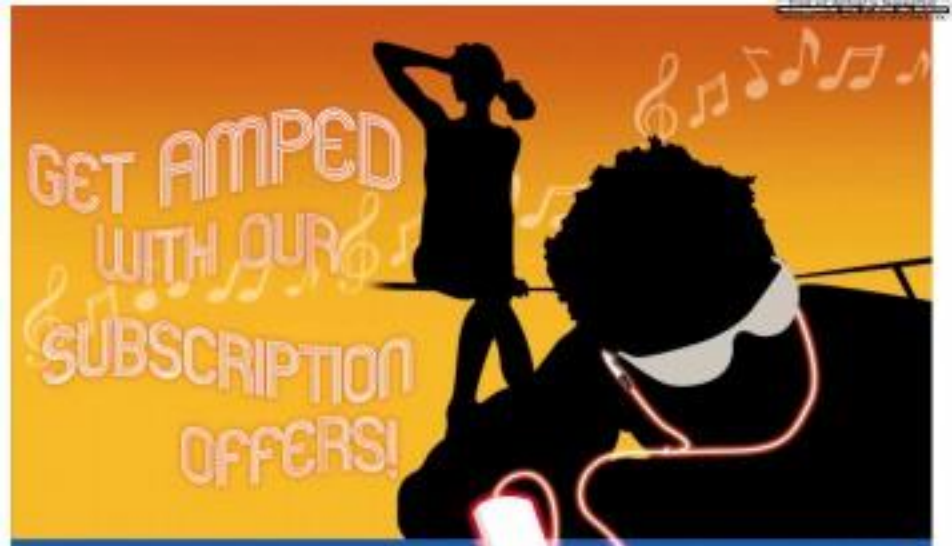
Dining Out

PAYDAY TREAT

Treat yourself or payday to the pleasure of Tokyo Tokyo restaurant's Creamy Delights. Available in different flavors, Creamy Delights are chilled just right and topped with a melt-in-the-mouth cream. Flavors include Mango Cream, Strawberry Cream and Coco Pandan Jelly Eggs. Also available are Nobby Cream, Chocolate Mousse, Banoffee Cream and Chocolate Chips.

ITALIAN TREAT

Pasta Italian Café and Dessert Bar offers Frutti di Mare, linguini with a combination of garlic sauteed fresh seasonal seafood in an olive oil and white wine tomato reduction sauce. Pasta is at Basement City in Ortigas. Call 911-2748; text 09.1842077; or e-mail pasta_cafe@yahoo.com.



PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Cash, Cheque, MasterCard, or Visa payments accepted. Go ahead, take a stand.

Get the one year subscription offer and receive this 2-in-1 flash disk and MP3 player that plays up to 50 songs.*

FREE

Call 896-6000 to subscribe.

Promo runs from April 11 to June 30, 2007. See flyers for full details.

* Free items depend on subscription package. Promo applies to new subscribers and renewal subscriptions. For Metro Manila residences only.

Summer must-haves:
☑ Hot swimsuit! ☑ Hot tan! ☑ Hot new career!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB Market
LIBRE

CAREER EXPO 2007

MAY 18-20, 2007
MEGATRADE HALL 1
5/F BUILDING B, MANDALUYONG CITY

Make your sun-soaked summer even hotter with a sizzling new job! Open up your career options with the Inquirer Job Market and Inquirer Libre Summer Career Expo 2007.

Thousands of job openings await you!

IN COOPERATION WITH

SPONSORS

EXHIBITORS

ACCENTURE
ADVANCE CONTACT SOLUTIONS
ALORICA PHILIPPINES
AMBERWIRE SOLUTIONS
APAC
ASIA TYPE, INC.
ASCEND ASIA
BRANDERS.COM
CONVERGYS
D.M. CONSUNJI, INC.
ETELECARE
GERRY'S GRILL
GMAI IDTV
IBM BUSINESS SERVICES
IBM DAKSH
ICT
INQUIRER
INTERNATIONAL SPECIALTY CONCEPTS, INC.
ISO PHARMA
JIMAC
LANDCO PACIFIC
LBP SERVICE CORP
MAGSAYSAY MARITIME
MARIE FRANCE
MEGAWORLD
METRO BANK
MILES & LEVELS
NETSUITE PHILS.
PEOPLE SUPPORT
PJ LHUILLIER
PRIME MANPOWER
SEARCHERS & STAFFERS
SITEL / CLIENTLOGIC
SKECHERS
SM- MART
SPI TECHNOLOGIES
SYKES ASIA
TELEDEVELOPMENT
TELEPERFORMANCE
TELETECH
TNT EXPRESS WORLDWIDE
VISION X
WEST CONTACT SERVICES

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto C. Velarde

ANOTHER for remembrance! But this event on March 23, 2003 was announced as a "engagement party."

Fan wants to know if Yilmaz is Ruffa's second husband

YILMAZ BEKTAS HAS EXPECTED TO BE flying solo away at press time on Tuesday evening, according to a news report on GMA-7. Could the public have been deliberately misled about this? First, it was reported that he would have up Monday, apparently to woo back his estranged wife, Ruffa Gutierrez, who's been threatening to seek annulment of their four-year-old marriage.

Then on Tuesday morning, a newspaper report, not in the business, said that Yilmaz had cancelled his planned trip.

Earlier, a friend of Ruffa's told Inquirer Entertainment: "I wouldn't be surprised if Yilmaz suddenly appeared, with his whole family, to woo Ruffa. That's their (Turkish) tradition. But I'm sure her family will not let her go easily if they let her go at all."

The same friend notes Ruffa has been so in love with Yilmaz that he is for her, the main measure of happiness. "For example," says the friend, "she would remark, 'Ang gwapo-gwapo, kamukha ni Yilmaz.'"

This rebuttal news is so sad.

On the bright side, I had a blast with colleagues Rinky Rimbao and Rey Pumaloy at "Showbiz Unwind" on Sunday. It's always a treat to work out to the show's Lizzy Ireda Pix, Erika and Rhea Santos.

I wanted to cover Tita Annabelle Rama in the dressing room about the big issue, but she was very valiantly watching Ruffa's "Tita Boo" interview on ABS-CBN.

The unfinished but hopefully mother and daughter antidote condensed into dismal speculations that Yilmaz had violent tendencies. But there were cold-cold words could not.

A request?

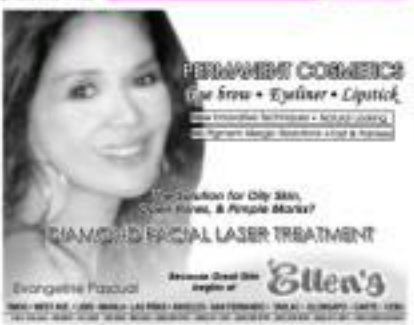
I remember when I was seated beside Tita Annabelle at the Inquirer Prince about a year ago during the press con for the movie "White Lady." I overheard her say to Yilmaz on the phone: "Yes sir, love Ruffa so much, love." Was she asking him or telling him? I couldn't tell.

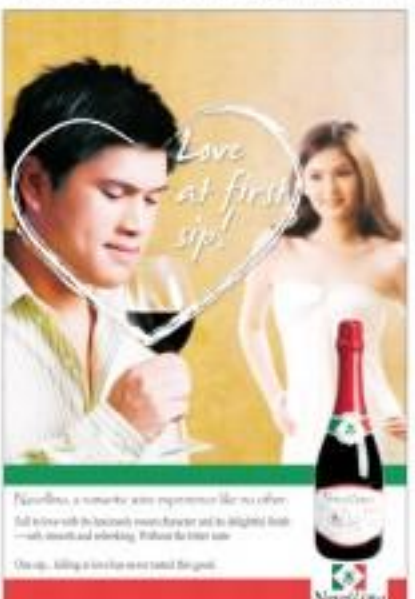
Apparently Ruffa tried to woo her back

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

THIS is what the concerned Lakwatsero found out http://usedgear.co.cc/forb.asp.co/Marriage/court/Cert.htm





CCA
10 Years of Culinary Education Leadership

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIE SCHEDULES EXPRESSED ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 SHREK 3 • THX	6 THE CONDEMNED
2 SHREK 3	7 28 WEEKS LATER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3	8 indieSine: SANDALANG BUHAY
4 SPIDER-MAN 3	9 FRACTURE
5 WHISPER	10 LUCKY YOU

ERMITA

1 SHREK 3	
2 THE CONDEMNED	5 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 WHISPER	6 28 WEEKS LATER
4 LUCKY YOU	7 FRACTURE

METRO EAST

1 WHISPER	4 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3	5 FRACTURE
3 SHREK 3	7 28 WEEKS LATER
4 THE CONDEMNED	8 LUCKY YOU

NOVALICHES

1 SPIDER-MAN 3	4 WHISPER
2 SHREK 3	5 SHREK 3
3 THE CONDEMNED	6 SPIDER-MAN 3

Catch the **Special Screening**
starting **TODAY!**
until **MAY 17**
(Thursday)
REGULAR Showing MAY 18

PIONEER

1 SHREK 3	3 WHISPER
2 SPIDER-MAN 3	4 FRACTURE

STA. ROSA

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 WHISPER
4 GRAY MATTERS
5 PERFECT STRANGER

LIPA

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 PERFECT STRANGER
4 THE REAPING
5 SHOOTER

DASMARIÑAS

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 WHISPER
4 GRAY MATTERS
5 LUCKY YOU

ANGELES

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 WHISPER
4 FIREHOUSE DOG

IMUS

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 PERFECT STRANGER
3 LUCKY YOU
4 28 WEEKS LATER
5 WHISPER
6 SHREK 3

STARMILLS

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 WHISPER
4 FIREHOUSE DOG
5 PERFECT STRANGER
6 PAN'S LABYRINTH

BACOLOD

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 RESERVE
4 PERFECT STRANGER
5 SHOOTER
6 TURISTAS

ILOILO

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 PERFECT STRANGER
4 TURISTAS
5 THE REAPING
6 PAN'S LABYRINTH

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
Megamall
Glorietta
Greenbelt
Ayala Cinema
Ayala Rizal Cinema
CINEMAS
Starmall
Festival Supermall
Theatres
Pacific Mall Cinemas
Cinema 2000 Robinsons
Cinema 2000 Robinsons
Cinema 2000 Robinsons

Fan wants to . . .

birthday to a scrapper may this year like will treat indeed friends (into 30) to a day of pampering in her finer spa. It's so Peachy (her pet name) ! but your friend friendship is something to those who truly know her inside out.

Guess list

■ Guess who this award-winning actor is. He vanity seems to be getting in the way of his acting. Seems like he has done too much Botox, which has frozen his facial expressions. Too bad. If only there was a treatment to rejuvenate his acting, too.

Clues: The actor has kids.

Summer party

The 10th Summer Invasion began with a bang in Resorts Celebes. Special guests big wigs Borgy Manalo, Ormanee Cadness, Mare Nelson and Amanda Griffin, among others. The fun continues to Starbucks, 10 p.m. at Embassy Club. Come in your sweatiest white outfit for the "I-Do-What-I-Sexy" to be hosted by Slim Fitz and Phill Bermagbo.

E-mail maternity

'Hoarse voice' . . .

I'm not going to complain because it's better than other I need to smile.

How did you cope with being away from your daughter while you competed?

It was really, really hard, but I have a strong support system. I have my mother who takes care of my daughter while I'm away. I have my grandmother who supports me and encourages me and pray for me.

What was your favorite performance?

Hard Do. Telling You." That was my opening number and the message was, "I'm telling you, I'm America. I'm going to stay ... I'm not going anywhere."

In your going-away video, you said, "Be extreme but a story" and you acted when you said that. What did you mean?

Everyone has a story and nobody knows mine like I do.

What are you going to have that story?

I don't know. Maybe in a movie or something.

You obviously learned a great deal from being on the show. What do you think are your strong points and areas that you?

I'm never, never really sing all those kinds of music, so that was a challenge for me. What I'll say out for "Idol" again? I prefer. My world. I want to be it for one season—to have a better life. Hopefully, I have achieved that.

What will you first splurge on with your "Idol" money?

A new house for me and my daughter. It doesn't even need to have anything in it. I can't wait to get the keys and open the door and let my baby run through the house.

"American Idol" airs on Star World every Wednesday and Thursday, 8 p.m. Re-run satellite, 9 p.m. prime time, and 11:30 p.m. replay.

SHANG CINEPLEX

SHREK 3 — 1:30, 3:40, 7:50, 10:00
SPIDER-MAN 3 — 1:00, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10
SHREK 1 — 2:00, 4:10, 6:20, 8:30
WHISPER — 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20
PREMIERE THEATRE
SHREK 2 — 2:00, 4:40, 8:00, 9:00

Catch the Cineplex Special

"SHREK 3" TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!
Showing on May 16, 2007 (Wednesday)

Shangri-La Plaza

NOW SHOWING!!!

MARK GARY'S
SANDALANG BAHAY
Albert Martinez Ronnie Lazaro
Menie Buencamino
Witness the dramatic & sometimes humorous life and times of a Pinoy family. This film deals with facing one's past and growing up to the truth that resides on the bleakest corner of the soul. This is sworn to be mindbending lows of the three Sandalang sisters.
Don't fail to watch this cinematic masterpiece!
May 16 to 22!
Exclusive @ IndieSine, Robinsons Galleria!

Araneta Center
Gateway Mall
SM Megamall
Ayala Cinemas
FULL STADIUM SEATING
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

SPIDERMAN 3 | SHREK 3 | WHISPER | LUCKY YOU
28 WEEKS LATER | FRACTURE | SHREK 3
Mall 5
1 SHREK 3 — 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00
2 FRACTURE — 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10
3 SPIDERMAN 3 — 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:00
4 CONDEMNED — 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00
5 WHISPER — 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20
For ticket inquiries, please call Ticketnet at 911 5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph
ARANETA COLISEUM
PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE — MAY 18, Friday
PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE — MAY 20, Sunday

METRO R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

Robinsons Galleria SM CINEMA
movietime SHOWTIME Your life as a movie

SPORTSTIME

Premiere Screening
May 21 (Monday) • 7:30 p.m.
Admission Prices: P 300 (Mega Manila) • P 250 (Cebu, Clark, Pampanga) • P 150 (Davao)
*With P 50 OFF for students

METRO MANILA

IMAX
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
FINAL FLIGHT
LUCKY YOU
CONDEMNED
WHISPER
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
THE SHOOTER
28 WEEKS LATER
FRACTURE
WHISPER
PREMIERE CINEMA
SPIDER-MAN 3
DREAMSCAPE
SPIDER-MAN 3
FRACTURE
28 WEEKS LATER
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHREK 3
CONDEMNED
SHREK 3
WHISPER
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
ANG CUTE NG PAMILYA
LUCKY YOU
28 WEEKS LATER
LUCKY YOU
WHISPER
CONDEMNED
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
ANG CUTE NG PAMILYA
28 WEEKS LATER
LUCKY YOU
WHISPER
CONDEMNED
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
ANG CUTE NG PAMILYA
28 WEEKS LATER
LUCKY YOU
WHISPER
CONDEMNED
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
FRACTURE
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
LIE WITH ME
SPIDER-MAN 3
CONDEMNED
WHISPER
FRACTURE
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHOWTIME
Event Cinema

Everyone is waiting for you!
SHREK 3
CAMP FAR, FAR AWAY
TODAY
@ SM Mall of Asia
Event Cinema

LOVE
CONCERNED
WHISPER
SPIDER-MAN 3
FRACTURE
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
THE REAPING
PERFECT STRANGER
SPIDER-MAN 3
PAN'S LABYRINTH
SHREK 3
PERFECT STRANGER
WHISPER
THE SHOOTER
THE SHOOTER
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
THE REAPING
SPIDER-MAN 3
PERFECT STRANGER
WHISPER
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SPIDER-MAN

Some downers to high-flying superhero's latest tale

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WITH "SPIDER-MAN 3" SHOWING IN some 95 percent of all local movie screens on its opening week, practically every Filipino and his best buddy has already seen the hit "sequel to a sequel" to Spidey's high-flying adventures.

Expectedly, there are all sorts of opinions about the blockbuster film, but the fact that it's breaking records all over the world indicates that most enjoyed what the producers dished out.

For our part, we found the movie's flying chase and fight scenes thrilling and executed with imagination and split-second timing that further raised the entertainment level.

Tobey Maguire's portrayal of the film character's new hands-Peter Parker/Spider-Man head character is similarly outstanding, especially now that Peter is made to taste "evil" by the sinister, black material from outer space that has become his new superhero get-up.

The physical change in look is digitally pulled off to great effect, but to psychological equivalent cases are to be even more difficult to execute. Thankfully, Maguire is up to the challenge, and even welcomes it, as it gives him an opportunity to break away from his "courageous kid next door" screen persona.

But isn't "blander," of course, to the "evil" change and clean-cut cubicle dweller boss in the world. Still, the change of pace shows that Maguire has more to him as an actor than his signature soulful expression, lopsided grin and lips.

Character hang-up

Kirsten Dunst isn't as fortunate on his production, because her character's main hang-up isn't an interesting as Peter's. In fact, it's a downright downer, because it has something to do with her character's lack of talent!

As film's start, she's one of the leads in a musical revue, but is quickly found wanting and is promptly asked out of the show. Dunst tries to play the latter as best she can, but her character flaw simply isn't interesting, as she ends up looking vaguely dyspeptic for much of the movie.

Not a very exciting acting assignment, right? Particularly when all those spiffy special effects are stealing your movie from under your pretty face...

Mary is dreamy in the movie's finale, mainly because it's soothing, and terribly confusing. It honcos not the usual two main combinations, but four. Why everybody was allowed to get in the act is what we want to know.

The film is a whole is also recommended, as the production screenings by writers-by some 15 filmmakers or so. Happily, its dynamic visuals make the occasionally redundant proceedings tolerable, so no great harm is done to the movie's ability to direct viewers.

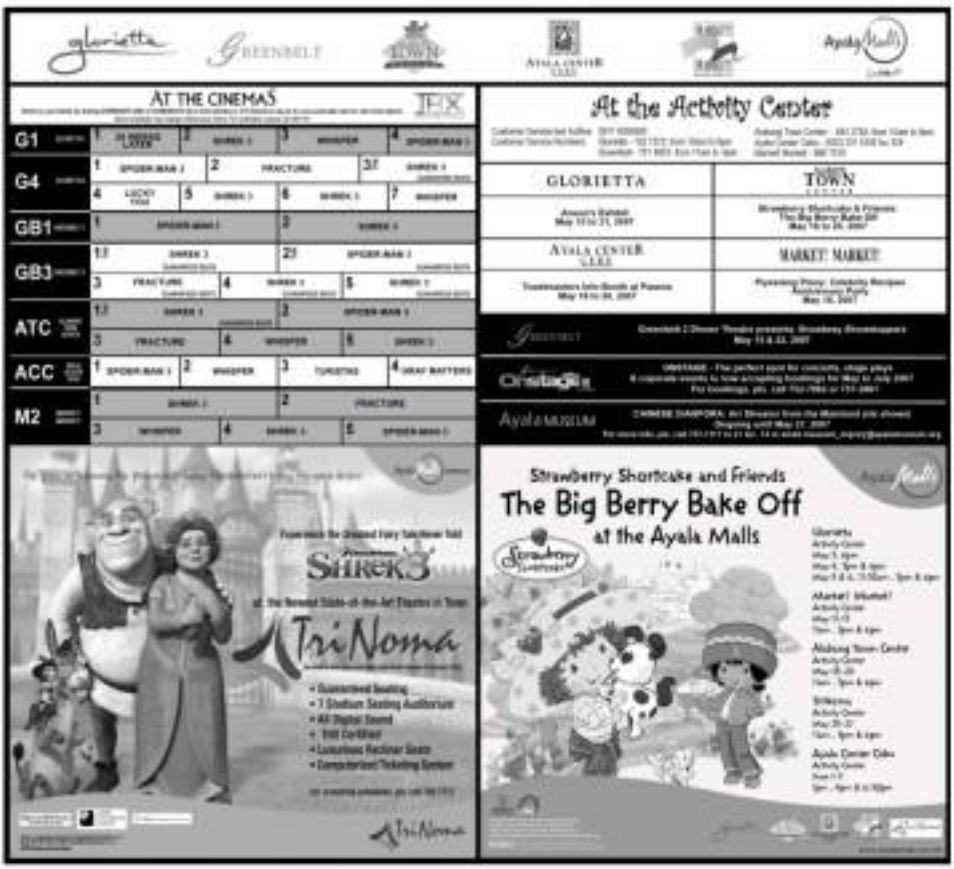
Still, we feel that the Spidey franchise has pretty much played itself out in terms of freshness of material, so we recommend one last decisive cut to detail from coming up with another sequel.

By chance that they'll pay attention, though, because "Spider-Man 3:1" record-breaking current premiere name guidelines of dollars more as he made-. Some reports that "$4," "$5" and even "$6" are already being planned!

Nothing records like success! You'd better believe it. "Spider-Man Movie Anchorpiece," here we come!

'Dark is Rising'

Newcomer Alexander Ludwig is cast as the hero in the supernatural thriller, "Dark is Rising." He is Will Stanton, a young man who learns he is the last a group of warriors who have dedicated their lives to fighting the forces of the Dark.



'Ambassador of Song' comes home

By Rayant Sar Gingo Jr.
Photos by Roger Wargalla
Additional photos courtesy of Carmen Pineda

MATTER OF FACTO, SHE SERENADES THAT she sings in about 16 languages.

"That's how I got the title 'Ambassador of the Philippines,'" Carmen Pineda says. She enumerates the languages—duh-ling not a couple of foreign dishes while at it, as proof.

In the end, we discover that, in fact, it's more than 16 languages—Mandarin, Cantonese, Hokkien, Thai, Malay, Japanese, French, Korean, German, Italian, Spanish, French, Russian, Portuguese, Hebrew, English and Sinhala (Sri Lanka). Add to this list Ilocano, Kapampangan, Hiligaynon and Tagalog, and she could be considered a musical polyglot.

She answers that her expansive repertoire is the result of constant traveling and her regular shows in Malacañang in the 1970s. A favorite of the Marcoses, she was often asked to perform for visiting dignitaries.

Dance with Gerald Ford

A scene-stealing incident was when the first-ever female head of government, Sirimavo Bandaranaike of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), visited Manila in the 1970s. Former First Lady Imelda Marcos asked Carmen to master a Ceylonese song a day before the PM's arrival.

"I came to Ceylon's embassy in Manila that same afternoon and, in my research, found a lullaby entitled 'Mahulo Raa.'" Carmen recalls. She proceeds to sing in Sri Lankan, then pauses to say, "It sounds similar to songs from Hindustan."

She recalls how impressed Bandaranaike was. "She asked me when I learned the song. I answered in half line, 'Just yesterday!'"

When US President Gerald Ford visited Manila, Carmen was again invited to provide entertainment. She recounts that Ford was initially skeptical. "He said that I might not know his favorites ... songs from the musical 'Oklahoma.' She pronounced it 'Ok-la-ho-ma' for the jackpot. 'My favorite boy Cleveland and I know all the songs from Dale Rodgers and Rammerstein musicals.'"

The US president was so impressed, he asked to dance with Carmen.

For emphasis, she does a cute 'Oklahoma' dance—"The hairy with the Fringe on Top" and "People Will Say We're in Love"—with very little provocation, during the interview.

Like a human jukebox, she has committed the lyrics to more than a thousand songs, she professes.

How to remember

"You have to understand the meaning of each song so that you won't forget them," she points out.

Her happy memories filled with full-to-discrete singles (musical accompaniment), which were required of every respectable singer at the height of the nightclub era.

"I've watched with the best musical directors—Jaeming Valdez, Angel Peña, Wyling Villanueva."

Times were different, she sighs. "When people went clubbing, they were dressed to the nines. The best clubs had strict dress codes."

Quite naturally, Carmen also donned glittery and glamorous gowns, many designed by top-notch couturier Ben Farrales.

Those were the glory days.

It was her mother's brother, Antonio Salazar, a soldier in the 14th battalion, who persuaded then 16-year-old Carmen to join the theater bit.

"I used to imitate Doña Sisa, Aida Jamora and Jo Bonifacio. They were visitors to my uncle. I also sang rock 'n' roll."

Her debut was held in a radio-based movie/Odeon movie house along Avenida, Luisa and Soler, which was famous as a showcase for Rosa Del Rosario and Molina, Nora Aunor Bolagtas and Norma Cardenosa.

After her Commercio classes at the University of the East, Carmen dropped in her shows, such were Lucila in tow.

In 1958, she won the title Mr Luzon and Rosa, through a popular vote conducted among the show's habitués. "I had lots of fans from the Chinese community," she says.

Start of globe-trotting

Part of the contest's prize was a trip to Hong Kong—the first step towards Carmen's globe-trotting career.

Later, she flew to Okinawa, to perform for American air force officers at the Kadena Officers' Club. Stints in Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Osaka, Bangkok, Guam, (un-announced) in Okinawa).

In Hong Kong, she top-billed shows at the Hawaiian, Latin Quarter, Nightclub and Palace. In Bangkok, she was a headliner at the Rattan Hotel, Siam Chateau, Siam International, Dusit Siam Hotel and Café de Paris.

She could do Paris, she says, but from husband, Boon Lesaeric of Thailand.

Her seven-month Carmen like a hook, drawing each actor with an icy glare. "They called my name Mrs. Stalking," Boon, whose second, proved to be her match.

Carmen remembers, "Boon insisted my mom. Maybe she realized that he wasn't only good looking and rich, but also very decent."

But not to mention talented: consort Louis, she starred in two local TV programs: The morning variety show "Happy-Happy," hosted by Jean Lopez on Channel 11 and the solo musical "Sun Carmen" on Channel 13.

On the latter, Boon once guested and sang a duet of "Close to You" with Carmen.

Career or marriage?

"Everyone said that we'd end up married," Carmen confesses. "I had to choose between show biz and married life. Of course, I chose Boon."

They tied the knot in 1969. Throughout their married life, the Lesaeric were feted in Bangkok, even though they also maintained a home in Manila.

"Boon was the jealous type. I could only sing in five-star, exclusive clubs," Carmen says.

In 1974, they parted ways and Carmen resumed her career in Manila. Young in Town and Country and Top of the Hilton, I became a regular singer in Malacañang."

She calls former President Ferdinand Marcos 'Tatay' (father) and First Lady Imelda 'Inang' (mother).

Carmen was known as the Shirley Bassey of the Philippines. "I've never seen [Bassey] perform live, though. Every time she was in Manila, I was abroad."

Perennially feel-home and fancy-free, Carmen's unabated shoes were again longing to stray.

After several ground-breaking shows in the United States, (specifically, at the Carnegie Hall in 1976), she moved to New York, where she settled with second husband Dr Adolfo Arroyo and son Ryan in 1981.

"I was the first Filipino to perform in Atlantic City at the Tropicana Casino, in 1985," she says. "Ginger's Debut told me that I had opened doors for other Filipino artistes."

She was living in Battery Park, a stone's throw away from the World Trade Center, when the 9-11 terrorist attacks happened.

"A goddess called and told me to look out the window. I saw the second plane as it hit the tower. It was very traumatic. The building in front of our condo was completely destroyed. We had to evacuate."

Proof of God's love

That she survived is "proof that God loves me. My son was spared. He usually took the train ride at the World Trade station. Thankfully, he overslept that morning."

Last year, she decided to relocate to Manila, "for good." Her romantic final: To reuniting of Isotta.

She now divides her days between concerts (at the Casino Filipino in Heritage and Cuisine Bahai Bonifacio in downtown) and leisurely swimming and bowling games.

Her current love doing occasional gigs. Completing a parole gives me a great high—as if I've won the lottery," she gushes.

She also watches shows of other performers. "I'm enjoying my life now. On Fridays, we have get-outs Saturdays with my friend Lea Castillo and her sister Stella. My fan Ruby recently gave me dancing lady [pedaled fan] from Bacloc. Oh crazy about her!"

SHE WAS the first Filipino artist to headline a show in Atlantic City.

AT THE Top of the Hilton, wearing a peek-a-boo gown bought in Tokyo

STILL in fighting form, Carmen recently held a series of shows at Casino Filipino.

After 25 years in America, Carmen Pineda is back where it all began

AS QUEZON during the Philippine Independence Day parade in the Big Apple, 1982. The boy is the late big band crooner Ryan.

AT THE 007-1 Club, also at the Hilton

CELEBRATING the birthday of former First Lady Imelda Marcos in New York, 1996.

SINGING for Amb. Albert del Rosario, left, and former Hacienda Luisita Gov. James Eduard Cojuangco during the Philippine Rep's lobby ruminating at the governor's mansion in 2002.

POSTER for an Atlantic City show with Anthony Castelli.

RIP'S SHIRLEY Bassey

CARING Tambo has been Carmen's friend and makeup artist for the past 30 years. They met on the set of "Happy-Happy."

A PALAKAMAYAN favorite, Carmen, second from right, performed songs from the musical "Oklahoma!" for, from left, Ferdinand Marcos and Gerald Ford in the 1970s.

Juday, from Kapamilya to Kapuso ...

From page E4

said Claudine Barretto's date with the couple in July. The plan was for a Juday-Claudine vacation, according to boy-toy manager Alfie Lorenzo, who said, "That was taking your world time. As if pinapasan lang kami. (I noticed they were just giving us false hopes.)"

"Walang personalan, wala kaming ka-(nothing personal)," Santos clarified.

The GMA Films offer had come over a year ago, long before "Raisa," Lorenzo noted.

According to a Star Cinema insider, "Raisa" earned P2.2 million. "[Star Cinema] wouldn't confirm that," Juday said. Officially, according to another Star Cinema source, "Yahoo," starring Claudine, is our biggest earner."

Juday has no idea to unpack, and has only praise for "Raisa," directed by Joey Reyes. "Pare film ko 'to. Big blessing. I'm just so happy that viewers liked it," she said. "It was not expensive, either, and it proved that a movie doesn't have to be shot abroad or De Luxe! Solid! special effects to become a hit."

She feels the pressure as the July 21 opening of "Dodje" approaches.

Fortunately, she said, she can share the pressure with co-stars Julius Magdangal, Iza Calzado and Mimi Raisa.

"Dodje," its drumbeaten point out, is the first big screen team-up of Juday and Julius, who were portrayed as rivals in their younger years. Actually, said Juday, they were buddies. As teenagers, we were bitten back and forth."

Both cast members in Kapamilya shows like "G-Mik" and "Esperanza," the two were pitted against each other because of competing recording and soap projects, and what self-promotion of "Dodje" was planned at the press meet-ups.

"But between the two of us, friendship was never questioned. That was how aware we were with each other," Julius recalled. Finally, it was the time who quarreled. "We didn't want to join the girls (squabble)... I think it's time we were seen together in a movie. We're not getting any younger. Even our fans have matured."

WITH Julius Magdangal

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail us: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ERIC AND DANIELLE STROLL hips in the leg that mattered most—the last.

The previously dating couple are the official winners of "The Amazing Race All Stars."

They had even finished first in any leg before the finish. They were yield-ed twice, thanks for elimination and remained from a plane once.

The couple came from two differ-ent teams in Season 6.

Cecilia Charle and Alissa and beauty queens Diatrik and Kendon were second and third players, respec-tively.

"I'm going to buy a house in Hun-ds. I want to give some to my family and save some for my future," said Er-ic when asked what he planned to do with his winnings during a conference call.

"I'm not really mean in pink, like you see on TV," he added, laughing. Danielle was not with him at the time of the interview.

Will you give money to Jeremy, your partner in the previous season?

I'm definitely going to help Jeremy a lot. I'll share his house with him and he doesn't have to pay high rent (laughter).

I feel Jeremy deserved to be on this race. And he knew how much race, we would have won the race easier but it was either I went with Danielle or not be in the race at all.

Jeremy's very competitive. Appar-ently, CBS didn't want an alpha male in "All Stars."

To be honest, I would have preferred Jeremy, because I think he deserved it more than Danielle did. He placed second in our sea-son; Danielle's was eliminated ear-ly.

When did you decide shooting the race?

Exactly September 17, 2006.

When did you break up with Danielle?

Shortly after the race (laughter). We have a lot of respect for each other but we realized that it's just our journey needs out. I'm dating another girl right now. She's 23, not loud and very classy. She's more subdued and more of the clean type.

Did your new girl know immediate-ly that you had to leave the race?

No, she didn't. We weren't allowed to tell anybody. My own family didn't know. I think that's part of the fun—that they watch the show and not know what's happening next. In the season where Jeremy and I fin-ished second, they were all crying.

Was team-use the only one that fin-ished the final task, which depend-ed on how well you knew the other. Surprising, since you guys were fighting a lot.

I think despite the bickering you saw Danielle and I had a lot of happy moments together, and conversation. We talked so much. Danielle talks so much. She wouldn't be quiet if I were-n't for her quiet.

It turned out Charla and Alissa, who were very loud, didn't really know each other that much.

So you think the challenges this season were easier than all the pre-vious seasons?

Challenges seemed easier, but what the viewers don't know is that this race is 100 times more stressful. The travel aspect of it, because there are fewer flights, less room for error, ex-tremely hours this same tasks and things.

There are pretty competitive and crazy teams in the race. Some threatened to be there, and some didn't like Unknown and Aspen.

You earlier said they were the team you'd most likely stay in touch with.

Don't get me wrong—they're won-derful people. The reason I didn't want them in the race was because they'd already won.

What's a better rule for a non-elimi-nation leg? Take all your belongings and money or they'll mark you for elimination?

I think the mark for elimination is better because it has more drama. There's the pressure to be in the first place or the last leg, or else they'll give your ID (unspoken).

I also didn't like to leg for money, because that gives a very wrong im-pression. You see Americans flying around with a UKH 4000 gadget and Nike shoes and then they'll beg for money from a very poor country.

But were you allowed to beg?

We were, but not where begging was illegal.

Who didn't you think Diatrik and Ox-mall were trustworthy?

The yield is part of the game, but not one that I would necessarily use. I was not in agreement with the blonde girls. Diatrik and Kendon as I was with Dia-tis and Donald when we got yielded because we made an agreement with Chris along with Charla and Micha. We agreed that we would not yield each other—and it was their idea!

Have you talked to Ilona since the end of the race?

I tried talking to Jimmy and Donald but, for some reason, they felt like I was the one who did something wrong. If they don't want to talk about it, I don't want to, either. I was willing to let it go, but they weren't.

Tell us about winning the race.

The best feeling was when I came around the corner of the garden of San Francisco and reaching the mat with no one else there. And to know that you've won something, even for just the bragging rights ... Don't get me wrong, I'll take the million dollars any time. But being the runner-to-the "All over" is ... amazing.

DANIELLE in a Most Black challenge

'Hoarse voice did me in'

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes

ASKED HOW SHE FELT ABOUT FINISHING fourth on "American Idol" this season, Jasalin LaRhea Jones replied, "All I can say is, look at Chris Daughtry."

LaRhea is determined to launch her career as an impressive stint on the hugely famous tal-ent contest.

During a conference call with the international press, the 27-year-old single mom said she had one immediate plans: To launch a recording ca-reer and buy herself and her four-year-old daughter Brittana a new house.

It was Brittana who comforted her the day she got the boot, LaRhea said. "I was crying, she wiped my face and said, 'Mommy don't cry. I'm not mad.' That was really cute, to like seeing she was proud of me."

For her weekly live Gen chores, LaRhea picked "Hey To Me" and "Keeping Alive," dozens that got mixed reviews from the judges. She explained during the media call that she was likely done in by a very hoarse voice due to fatigue, like figure; the first two songs weren't exactly the best for her.

LaRhea's departure leaves three wo-women—Melinda Doolittle, Blake Lewis and Jordin Sparks.

Is Simon a good loser?

He is ... If I do it again. We like are fine, and all.

Some people have sometimes questioned your song choices, especially when you did Carrie and Bonnie back to back. Why songs by two "Idol" winners?

Well ... they were winners. As for "Jesus Take The Wheel," I was going through some things and I was like, "You know what, I can't do this competition by myself so, Lord, you're gonna have to help me through it." I do believe it's my self, and I do believe that God has a plan for me, and that I will be successful.

What was your favorite comment from Simon?

And what got you motivated?

My lawyer would have to be, "She's in a league all her own."

Is there one thing you thought he was wrong about?

No, when he said, "You're shooting."

What did Simon say to you after you were sent home?

He told me he was proud of me, and that he knows he going to have a successful career.

What kind of album would you like to put out?

I never sure exactly. I want it to be kind of sassy and soulful with a little inspiration, if that makes sense.

Is the money you've made so far, and what you'll make on the tour, what you expected?

WHERE'S?

BUT "IDOL" cutoff LaRhea Jones says, "Look at Chris Daughtry."

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Eric and Danielle rule

By Rach L. Navarro

Juday, from Kapamilya to Kapuso: It's just a job

By Rigoel Jan Diego Jr.

SHE KNEW THAT DIVORCE HEADLINES would force on her entertainment career.

After the success of Star Cinema's Mano Manila Film festival entry, "Kasal, Binyag, Kasalo," Judy Ann Santos opted to do, as fol-low-up project, the movie "Deja," produced by her home studio's rival, GMA Films (with Uha Films).

"I have no movie lined up with Star Cinema," Santos explained in an exclusive interview with Inquirer. Entertainment.

"But I asked permis-sion from Star. It wasn't easy ... there was a lot of discussion," she said.

Yes, she'd heard that Star Cinema people were dismayed.

"If I've stepped on some toes over at ABS-CBN, I'm asking for their patience. I'm just do-ing my job as an actress. I had to act quickly. I was told five star Cinema that I should hang on, that they had a project for me. But how long should I wait?"

There were also rumors that her ABS-CBN bosses had asked Juday to delay her new film

JUDY ANN SANTOS